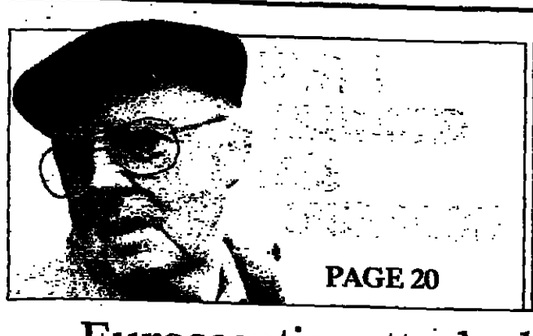
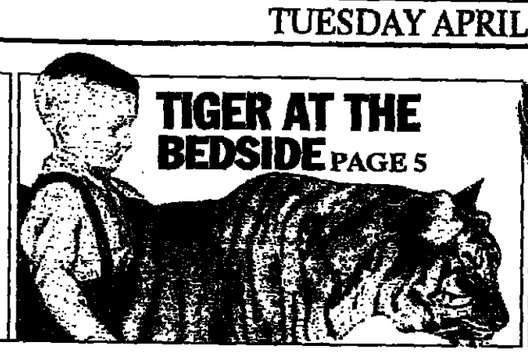
THE TIMES

35P

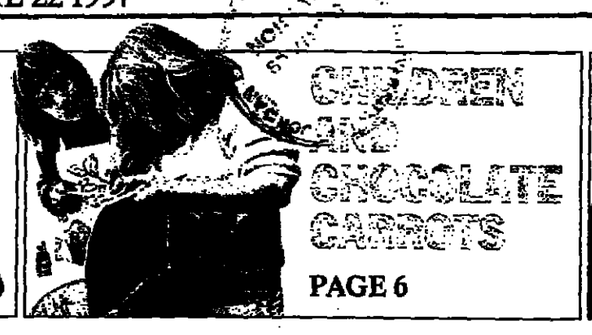
No. 65,870 TUESDAY APRIL 22 1997



PAGE 20



TIGER AT THE BEDSIDE PAGE 5



CHILDREN AND CHOCOLATE CARROTS PAGE 6



AMERICA'S BLACK ICON Walter Moseley at the NFT PAGE 37

Eurosceptics attacked as 'doom merchants'

Santer accused of interfering in the election

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

JACQUES SANTER was accused of intrusion into British politics yesterday when he attacked Eurosceptic "doom merchants" who were intent on demeaning Europe's successes.

Railing against "unjustified and misplaced" outbursts of Euroscepticism, the European Commission President also criticised those who tried to score cheap points by caricaturing EU legislation and institutions.

His remarks — clearly prompted in part by the Conservative advertisement showing Tony Blair sitting on Helmut Kohl's knee — were immediately interpreted by Labour and the sceptics as domestic interference. But John Major seized on them as evidence of the threat posed to Britain by those seeking greater integration at the Amsterdam summit in June.

In his speech, delivered in English to an audience in Amsterdam, Mr Santer challenged the sceptics: "Those who criticise, do they know what they are talking about? Do they have an equally stimulating alternative? If so, what is it?

"Do these doom merchants want us to step backwards towards a Europe only composed of simple trading arrangements? Even the countries which in the Fifties wanted to go no further than a European free trade association have now virtually all opted for the benefits of European Union membership — and for good reason."

Mr Santer's original text is understood also to have contained a strong criticism of the Kohl-Blair advertisement, but he left it out at the last moment in the interests of diplomacy. He need hardly have bothered. Although he claimed that his speech to the Dutch Association of European Journalists was aimed at sceptics everywhere, Mr Major was happy to accept that the Tories were the target. It is also understood, however, that Mr Santer has been irritated by Labour, whose line and language has sometimes matched Tory Eurosceptic rhetoric.

And last night Labour distanced itself from Mr Santer, while pointing out that he was appointed with the approval of Mr Major, who described him in 1994 as the right man in the right place at the right time. "I have always regarded him as a healing force and not a divisive force."

Gordon Brown said: "Mr Santer should be in no doubt that a Labour government will make decisions based on British needs in the British interests under the strong leadership of Tony Blair."

Mr Major meanwhile rewrote a speech in York using the Santer address to mock Mr Blair. Highlighting Mr Santer's remark that more majority voting would avoid countries getting trapped in a "vicious circle of paralysis", Mr Major said: "I disagree. Unlike the Labour leader, I will retain our vetoes. If it is right for Britain I will keep my feet on the brakes. Mr Blair would go to Amsterdam and put his foot on the accelerator to a federal Europe."

The Prime Minister's aides said that he was relieved that Mr Santer had spoken out at such a crucial time. "It's given him a target with which he believes he can unite the whole party. None of us wants the sort of integration that Jacques Santer is proposing."

Malcolm Rifkind hammered home the message, claiming that Mr Santer's vision was "disturbingly similar" to Mr Blair's, offering no end to the process of integration.

In his speech, Mr Santer said: "We have only one option: to move on." Already, inflation rates and interest rates were low, budget deficits falling and growth prospects improving, with a convergence of national economic and budgetary policies never stronger. It was not a bad performance, he said.

"But it will not silence the prophets of doom. I did not know there were so many. What inspires all those who now speculate on delays, on the possibilities for changing or fudging the criteria and who discover ... all the so-called reasons why the single currency cannot and must not work?"



Santer: text trimmed out of "diplomacy"

ELECTION 97

"Labour is also guilty of blurring the choices facing Britain"

— Peter Riddell, page 14

Reports, analysis 9-16
Anatole Kaletsky 22
Roger Scruton 22
Leading article 23

Chirac calls early election

President Chirac has called an election on May 25 and June 1 in an attempt to win solid backing for his Government as it makes major decisions on European integration, especially the switch to a single currency. After announcing the date of the election, M Chirac telephoned Chancellor Kohl of Germany ..... Page 19



BARRY GREENWOOD

Katy Parker practises for the international event and, left, the 4 ft 8 ins schoolgirl who began playing standing on a box

England international is only 12



BY ANDREW LONGMORE

MAY Day will be a day of reckoning for more than just political parties: Katy Parker of Preston, Lancashire, will, at the age of 12 years and 144 days, become the youngest English athlete ever to play in a world championships.

Parker, daughter of the former European champion, Jill Hammersley and a pupil at Kirkham Grammar School, will partner Michael Chan, 13, in the mixed doubles at the world table tennis championships, which begins with the team event in Manchester on Thursday. At 5½ st and 4 ft 8 ins, she will also be one of the smallest competitors. She began playing table tennis at the age of six, standing on a box to see above the table, and won national championships at under-10, under-11 and under-12.

"She's level headed and a clever player," Carole Moore, chairman of the junior selection committee of the English Table Tennis Association, said. "I'm sure she will give a good account of herself."

Parker's parents support her selection for the championships. Both are aware of the dangers of burn-out, which prompted the tennis prodigy, Jennifer Capriati, at 14 years and 90 days the youngest competitor in the modern era at the All England Championships, to drop out of the game temporarily.

"A lot of kids who are pushed into playing, give up," Parker's mother said. "It's up to her how much she plays. I'm not worried that she will be frightened by the occasion. We've said to her: 'You're there for experience'."

Fu Ming Xia became the youngest official gold medallist in Olympic history when she won the 10-metre platform dive in Barcelona in 1992 at the age of 12.

Child prodigy, page 54

Labour 'tried to gag union chief'

Union leader John Edmonds told the Scottish TUC yesterday that he had been advised by the Labour hierarchy not to attend the conference.

The leader of the General Municipal and Boilermakers Union told STUC members: "It was suggested to me that I might plead some other engagement, rather than come to Glasgow" ..... Page 9

Thousands gain £1,400 windfall

Investors and borrowers with the Alliance & Leicester made around £1,400 a head yesterday when the former building society floated on the stockmarket.

In the first day's dealings, the shares soared to 566½p, 9 per cent above the highest forecasts ..... Page 29

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 40; Belgium B Frs 100; Canada $3.50; Canaries Pts 325; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 16.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 500; Netherlands Fl 5.50; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 80; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 45c; Morocco Dir 27.00; Norway Kr 20.00; Portugal con Esc 350; Spain Pts 325; Sweden Skr 19.50; Switzerland S Frs 5.00; Tunisia Din 2.200; USA $3.50.

The Times on the Internet
http://www.the-times.co.uk

Election day alert after IRA phone blitz on London

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND MARK HENDERSON

A HUGE intelligence and policing operation is under way to stop the IRA disrupting polling on May 1.

Measures already being taken were given a sense of urgency by the chaos the terror group caused in London and the South East during yesterday's morning rush-hour. Road, rail, Underground and air services were severely curtailed by security alerts — but no bombs were found.

A special co-ordinating committee with senior representatives from Scotland Yard, MI5, the Cabinet Office and other government departments is now working at full stretch to try to "predict, preempt and stop" any IRA action to prevent people voting. Security sources said that every measure "bar putting tanks on the streets" was under consideration.

Yesterday's disruption in the capital, with traffic gridlock, came after a series of coded telephone warnings. Four mainline London railway stations — Paddington, King's Cross, St Pancras and Charing Cross — were shut for several hours. Gatwick and Luton airports were closed for hours and Stansted airport briefly. Terminal Three at Heathrow was also affected.

MI5's counter-Irish terrorism branch has been circulating the latest secret intelligence to Scotland Yard and other police forces in the country, ensuring that no one in authority is in any doubt about the seriousness of the present IRA threat. Security sources also issued a warning that, although the current campaign was focusing on causing chaos on roads and railways, there remained a strong possibility that the terrorists would switch tactics and attempt another "spectacular" bomb attack.

The Home Office said that a law allowing for a second day of polling in the event of riot could be used to extend the election, but it will take legal advice. The Representation of the People Act 1983 gives a constituency's presiding officer the power to order resumed polling the following day in the event of a "riot or open violence" at a polling station. There is no law to cover any terrorist disruption at polling stations.

MI5 and the police are trying not to give the impression that they have received intelligence of a specific IRA plot to disrupt polling. However, there is perceived to be sufficient "general" intelligence material to mount a special effort for May 1.

Travel chaos, page 2

Laurel and Hardy brought in to do battle for Labour

BY OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

LAUREL AND HARDY join the election today in the guise of the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer. Labour is portraying John Major and Kenneth Clarke as Stan and Ollie to illustrate its claim that Britain has sunk to 21st place in a "world prosperity league".

But the advertisement in *The Times* with its caption "Another fine mess" echoes a very similar cartoon drawn by the newspaper's political cartoonist, Peter Brookes.

A theft? 'It's like all these things," says Brookes. "There's no such thing as an original idea. I also once did a cartoon of Blair and Prescott as Laurel and Hardy. Both these pairs lend themselves to that kind of caricature.

"Curiously, I also did a drawing of a double-headed John Major on an ECU and Labour did that poster of a double-headed Major on tax.

"The first time you think, oh that's an interesting coincidence. The second time you wonder if they really are keeping an eye on what cartoonists are drawing."

Marion Cubin of the Laurel and Hardy Museum in Ulverston, Cumbria, said the pair would have enjoyed seeing their image used in this way. They are no strangers to the political arena: one sticker at the museum reads "Maggie Thatcher does the work of two men — Laurel and Hardy".

Today they are being used to reinforce Gordon Brown's interpretation of Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development figures on national income per head, which he says shows that Britain has slumped down what Labour calls the "world prosperity league". The Shadow Chancellor says that since 1979 Britain has been overtaken by Italy, Japan, Finland, Hong Kong, Singapore and Ireland.

The Paris-based think-tank is generally considered the definitive authority on international economic comparisons, but the figures must be taken with a pinch of salt (Anatole Kaletsky writes).

Most economists regard countries whose per capita GDPs are within 10 per cent of one another as having essentially the same standard of living. On this basis, Britain is broadly in the same league as France, Italy, Sweden, Holland and most other European countries. It is, however, clearly behind Germany, Austria and Belgium and far behind America, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Norway.



Labour's "Stan" Major and "Ollie" Clarke and Peter Brookes's 1994 cartoon version

HOME & CONTENTS INSURANCE

BUILDINGS SUM INSURED	CONTENTS SUM INSURED	ANNUAL PREMIUM
£250,000	£50,000	£495
£500,000	£50,000	£595
£750,000	£75,000	£795
£1,000,000	£100,000	£995

Home & Legacy specialises in providing insurance for higher value homes and contents anywhere in the UK and we will save you £100's on your premiums - these example combinations are valid for your area, and include accidental damage. We also offer monthly instalment plans and competitive premiums for fine art, antiques, jewellery, and other valuables.

MORE COVER FOR LESS

Home & Legacy offers the widest cover for the lowest premiums in the UK including accidental damage and worldwide cover for contents and valuables.

NO AREA LOADING

These premiums quoted are true for anywhere in England, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

PERSONAL, CONFIDENTIAL & EFFICIENT SERVICE

Call Robyn Harris direct on

0171 824 8224

9am - 6pm, Monday to Friday

Home Legacy

HOME & LEGACY INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED

BACKED BY THE UK'S LEADING INSURERS

Premiums quoted are valid for a period of 30 days from the date of this publication and are subject to: The home being of standard construction and free from history of subsidence or flooding; Satisfactory physical security in force at the home; Satisfactory claims experience and acceptance of risk by insurers; Policy terms and conditions; Government Insurance Premium Tax (currently 4%). Our minimum premium level is £495.

TV & RADIO 54, 55
WEATHER 28
CROSSWORDS 28, 56
LETTERS 23
OBITUARIES 25
LIBBY PURVES 22
ARTS 37-39
CHESS & BRIDGE 50
COURT & SOCIAL 24
SPORT 50-54, 56
BODY & MIND 20
LAW REPORT 49

☐ Mainline stations shut down ☐ Trains diverted ☐ Airports closed ☐ Traffic gridlock

Worst chaos yet in IRA campaign to disrupt transport

BY STEWART TENDLER, HARVEY ELLIOTT AND DANIEL MCGRORY

AIRLINE passengers, rail commuters and drivers across London and the South East were stranded for hours yesterday as the IRA launched its biggest attempt yet to disrupt the mainland transport network.

At the peak of the disruption during the morning rush hour Gatwick, Luton and Stansted airports were completely closed. Security searches were under way at Heathrow's Terminal Three and police evacuated King's Cross, St Pancras, Charing Cross and Paddington railway stations and Baker Street Underground. The Eastern Docks at Dover were also closed.

Trains coming into London from the west were stopped at Ealing Broadway. Trains coming from the south to Waterloo and Charing Cross were diverted to Canon Street, London Bridge and Victoria. Those from the north were halted at Stevenage.

Later in the day the three stations at Watford were closed after more coded warnings. On the road network police had to close some roads into London to stop further chaos.

In central London Trafalgar Square was eerily empty in the rush hour. Elsewhere motoring organisations reported the worst traffic chaos seen in the capital, with total gridlock in some areas with Whitehall, Pall Mall, parts of the Embankment and Euston Road.

The disruption follows other attacks in recent weeks. On Friday the IRA left a trail of chaos in the north of England with hoax calls warning of bombs at stations and on the M6. On April 3 they struck at the M6 and M1 in the Midlands and on March 25 they bombed Wilmslow station in Cheshire.

The disruption began with a flurry of coded and uncoded messages at about 7am. At Gatwick, which handles 50 to 60 flights in and out each hour, more than 8,000 departing passengers had to be looked after for hours when all the airport closed. Stansted closed for an hour and some incoming passengers were left sitting for hours in their aircraft.

Luton was completely closed and, to the frustration of its staff, remained so for much longer than Gatwick because every available bomb disposal unit was busy in London or at Gatwick and could not be spared until hours later.

The police blockade at Luton was lifted after eight hours last night, though forensic teams continued their investigation of a suspect package.

Bomb squad officers had blown up the device which was discovered in an empty office close to the main doors of the arrivals building. That part of the terminal remained cordoned off last night.

John Major expressed his contempt for the IRA and Sinn Fein. He also praised the "stoicism and good humour" of the thousands of travellers whose journeys had been disrupted.

Tony Blair said: "It is a clear attempt by the IRA to disrupt the British general election. We will not let them do so."

Handbook on warning calls

Organisations that might get bomb warnings were urged by police to study the Home Office's handbook for managers and security officers on handling bomb threats. *Bombs: Protecting People and Property* tells switchboards the information they should try to get to help police judge the seriousness of the risk. The operator might also get information that could help to identify the caller.

CHRIS EADES



Passengers being evacuated yesterday from the terminal at Gatwick after a bomb warning. No device was found

Disruption 'will last until May 1'

BY NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SINN FEIN resorted to its familiar refrain yesterday of blaming everyone apart from republicans for the series of IRA bomb warnings on the mainland. As Unionists gave warning that the IRA would step up its campaign of disruption right up until polling day, Sinn Fein accused John Major of provoking the violence.

Speaking at Sinn Fein's weekly election press conference in Belfast, Martin McGuinness, the party's chief negotiator, said: "I see all of these things as the symptoms of the failure of the British Prime Minister John Major to develop the opportunity which was created by the IRA cessation of August 1994."

Mr McGuinness qualified his remarks by saying that the prospects of a new government and a strong performance at the polls by Sinn Fein offered an opportunity to rebuild the peace process.

The IRA and Sinn Fein leadership are using the disruption on the mainland to send a blunt message to the next government: unless it changes course on Northern Ireland, by relaxing the conditions for Sinn Fein's entry into talks, then the mainland will face more violence.

Mr Major and Tony Blair both stood firm yesterday in the face of the carefully orchestrated IRA campaign. In recent weeks they have united in toughening up the conditions for republicans. However, the IRA is convinced that exploding bombs and causing disruption will eventually make the British people want to wash their hands of "the Irish problem".

☐ Loyalists were thought to be responsible for exploding a pipe bomb outside the Sinn Fein press office in the Shantallow area of Londonderry yesterday. Minor scorch damage was caused to the door of the office when the small pipe bomb exploded at 3am. The area, which was sealed by the police, was reopened later in the morning.

Gorbachevs go shopping as Gatwick closes

BY RICHARD DUCE AND LIN JENKINS

THE former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife Raisa were among thousands of passengers stranded at Gatwick yesterday. While most passengers were forced to sit it out in hangars or on board aircraft, the Gorbachevs booked into the £150-a-night presidential suite at Gatwick's Ramada Hotel with their entourage in adjoining rooms.

After lunch they went shopping in the West End of London in a chauffeur-driven Daimler, tailed by Russian embassy staff.

More than 8,000 passengers at the airport were evacuated in an exercise described as "copybook" by the police. The man with the unenviable task of sorting out the chaos was David Cumming, the airport's director of operations, who only took up his new job on April 1. Mr Cumming was driving to work when received a bleep from the duty officer, but like thousands of others, he could not get near the airport.

He ran a crisis centre at the airport's emergency meeting place at the BAA management training centre at Pease Pottage a few miles from Gatwick until the all-clear, when he moved back to the airport and began clearing the 130 stranded aircraft.

"I was frankly amazed at how understanding the passengers were. Many of them had been flying for ten hours and then to be told they had to sit on board an aircraft was terrible. But they were wonderful," he said. Many passengers were stuck in their aircraft for several hours in safe areas on the tarmac after they touched down, as those heading for flights were corralled into hangars for safety. Staff and travellers in the north and south terminals walked to emergency holding areas in the car parks, while local roads and access from the M23 were closed.

More than 30,000 people queued behind the security cordon. Some abandoned their cars and tried to walk while others simply read newspapers on the grass verges as they listened for news on the radio.

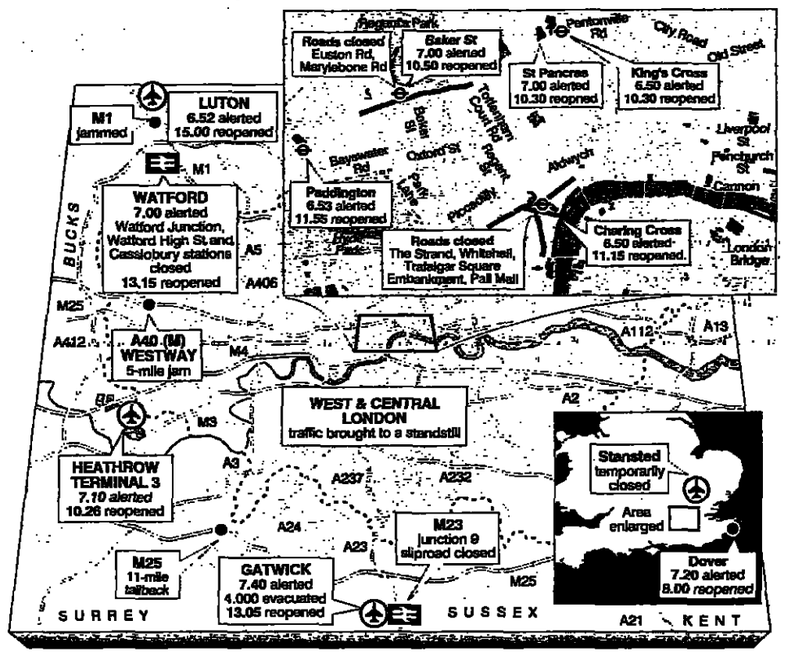
Sussex police, who mounted the security cordon, concentrated their systematic search on the railway station below the south terminal and the railway track after the coded warning to an airline at 7.12am. No device was found.

The south terminal reopened at 1.20pm and the north at 2.30pm. Roads were closed again for half an hour in the afternoon after luggage left in a car park sparked another alert. Many passengers faced the prospect of a night in the airport while one American student said she would head for London in the hope of finding a room there. If that failed she planned to spend the night on Victoria station.

Raymond Hellen, whose daughter and four-year-old grandson were due to fly to Florida, said: "Last night we saw Gerry Adams talking about peace and harmony in Sinn Fein's party political broadcast. It is somewhat ironic given that this today was hardly an accident. It is crazy."

Out-going services resumed shortly after 4pm and incoming ones at about 4.30pm. Sussex police said the closure caused traffic jams up to 15 miles away.

Carl and Gill Williamson arriving from Toronto with five-month-old Linden to visit his grandparents for the first time, said they had been well looked after during the delay. "It has taken some hours to get through, but everyone has been great. People seem to understand that it is difficult with a baby and they were terrific," said Mr Williamson.



Stoicism saves the day for grounded fliers

BY ALAN HAMILTON

MAUREEN O'SHEA made the best of a bad job yesterday, finding the most comfortable seat in the house — the cab of a baggage truck. However, at the age of 72 she was still feeling the cold in the cargo hangar that did duty as Luton Airport's temporary passenger terminal.

Hundreds of travellers displayed patience and stoicism — the typical British reaction in London and the South East to the IRA's disruption tactics —as they waited most of the day for the airport to reopen and their flights to take off.

Some lay in the sunshine on grass verges; others stretched out on the tarmac with their luggage for pillows. Many more made the half-mile walk to a nearby Asda supermarket which had thoughtfully set up tables and chairs in its entrance lobby and was offering free tea, coffee and sandwiches.

The morning had started chaotically. Doreen Tighe and her 22-month-old son, Jack, heard reports on the radio before they left home in Northampton at 8.30. "I tried to ring the airport but couldn't get through. The traffic from the motorway through Luton was nose to tail. When we got here they still hadn't opened the temporary car park."

Andrew and Maxine Openshaw from Leicester, en route to Dublin, were stretched on the grass munching Asda sandwiches. "It's frustrating and really childish, but it's still frightening that they can hold the country to ransom with a few phone calls," Mr Openshaw said.

Early-morning fliers arriving at Luton by train were held at the station for two hours before being taken by coach to the airport. Around the airport itself, the streets were littered with parked cars, many belonging to airport workers unsure of what to do.

As the hours dragged by, a camaraderie developed. People shared their food, struck up new friendships, exchanged travel horrors.

"If I'd thought about it, I should have guessed the IRA would do something on the Queen's birthday," one Irish passenger, who declined to give her name, said. "I am not at all amused. I hate the IRA. They are achieving nothing except a lot of inconvenience."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Haughey 'took £1.3m in secret'

Charles Haughey, the former Irish Prime Minister, received £1.3 million in secret payments from a supermarket tycoon while still head of the Dublin Government, a public inquiry was told yesterday.

Ben Dunne, the former head of Dunnes Stores, alleged that he made the payments under false names into off-shore bank accounts to help Mr Haughey out his financial difficulties. Mr Haughey was involved in detail negotiations on Northern Ireland with the British Government at the time of the payments, allegedly made in four instalments between December 1987 and November 1991. Mr Haughey, who was not at the hearing, denied any knowledge of the payments in letters to the Dunne family's solicitors.

The tribunal continues.

Bishop calls for gay marriages

A leading Church of England bishop called last night for the church to sanction homosexual "marriage". The Right Rev John Baker, former Bishop of Salisbury, also suggested that the end of such a marriage should be marked with a "divorce".

His views were countered by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, who made clear that he disagreed with the bishop's stance.

Victory roll for Andrex makers

The lavatory paper maker Andrex won a High Court battle to stop a rival firm using promotional packaging that made it appear the companies were connected.

Nouvelle Quilted promised "Softness guaranteed (or we'll exchange it for Andrex)". The court gave Andrex an injunction banning Nouvelle's makers from using its trade mark, which the judge said could mislead shoppers.

Boy died after pretending to fall

A schoolboy several times pretended to fall from a 200ft cliff before he really fell to his death, an Eastbourne inquest was told. Jamie Underdown, 10, had faked a fall six times as he walked with his sister and two of her friends along cliffs at Seaford, East Sussex, on March 15. The three girls told a passerby that they thought Jamie had fallen "but he may be joking and hiding". Verdict: accidental death.

Firefighters' strike escalates

The strike by Essex firefighters escalated yesterday when the Fire Brigades Union announced further action against cuts of £1.5 million in the service. Stoppages will take place tomorrow, April 30 and May 3.

Green Goddesses, the 40-year-old appliances manned by troops, were called out to 16 incidents yesterday, none serious, during the second stoppage called by the union.

advanced thinking



Target detection, information processing, decision making in the blink of an eye.

That's the owl's capability.

Exceptional eyesight allows the owl to see in almost total darkness.

Hearing so acute it can detect its prey by sound alone.

Sensory powers that make it a formidable hunter and ensure its survival.

But even more formidable is the Challenger 2 main battle tank from Vickers' Defence Systems division.

By night, its thermal imager finds adversaries up to and beyond 4km.

Its fire control computer makes over 4 million calculations per second, all the while performing 50 simultaneous tasks.

This computing power enables it to detect and track, like the owl, with devastating accuracy.

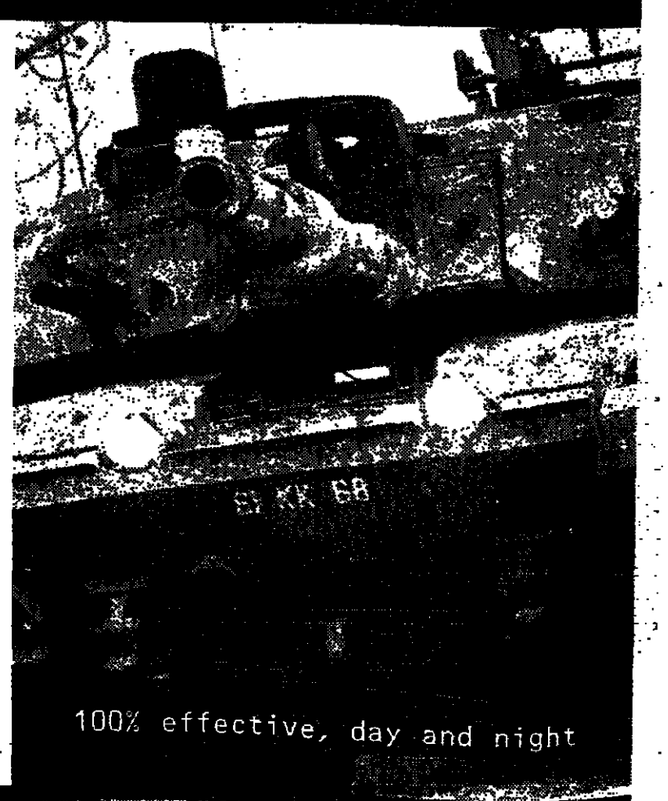
Mastering complexity such as this is second nature not only in the Defence Systems division, but also throughout our Propulsion Technology, Automotive and Medical Equipment groupings.

Advanced thinking comes naturally to Vickers P.L.C.

1997 The Year of Engineering Success

Vickers

A COMPANY IN ITS ELEMENT



AUTOMOTIVE DEFENCE SYSTEMS PROPULSION TECHNOLOGY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

RSPCA's biggest bequest contested by widow cut out of the will

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE RSPCA is being challenged in court by the widow of an Australian businessmen who decided to leave £8 million to the charity days before his death.

Leon D. Richardson, a dog-lover and well-known financial commentator who had survived kidnapping, atomic bomb tests and corruption charges, rewrote his will nine days before dying of a heart attack in Hong Kong in May 1995, aged 77.

Margie Richardson, 76, his wife of 40 years, from whom he had separated in 1994, launched a legal action in the Hong Kong High Court yesterday over her late husband's fortune.

Mrs Richardson contends that her husband was suffering from "morbid jealousy" and was of unsound mind when he scrapped his original will, in which everything was left to her.

According to Mrs Richardson's writ, her husband's delusions led him to accuse her of infidelity and claims that she hired gangsters to kill him. The writ says that Mr Richardson expressed the view in a letter dated February 24, 1995, that she had behaved with "infamous, heinous, sinning, fiend-like, immoral depravity".

Yesterday John Scott, QC, for Mrs Richardson, said that the couple had enjoyed a deeply loving relationship but Mr Richardson began to suffer from "morbid jealousy" in the last months of his life. Letters written by Mr Richardson to relatives "showed quite clearly this poor man to have been a lonely, paranoid and delusional soul at the end of 1994 and the beginning of 1995", Mr Scott told the court.

Michael Thomas, QC, for the executors of the will, denied that Mr Richardson was suffering from any mental disability when he signed the will. Friends and colleagues of the businessman say he had suffered from a chronic heart condition and was under stress from the recent break-up with his wife when he died. Mrs Richardson had received more than £2 million from her husband after they parted.

According to the RSPCA yesterday, Mr Richardson kept Newfoundland dogs and a poodle which he tinted with a pink rinse.

A spokeswoman said: "If we were to receive the whole £8 million, then I think it would be our biggest legacy ever. It would be a marvellous thing for animal welfare in the UK and abroad ... and would cover the cost, for instance, of running just one of our seven animal hospitals for eight years."

The RSPCA spends some £40 million a year in running investigations, mounting prosecutions, in veterinary treatment and in housing sick animals

The case is expected to last ten days.

Rapist who plotted against celebrities is sent to Rampton

BY STEPHEN FARRELL



Barnes: "game plan" was four murders

A WOMAN-hating psychopath who planned to stalk and rob famous women, including the actress Fiona Fullerton, was sent yesterday to Rampton high-security mental hospital indefinitely.

Rodney Barnes, 31, who became known as the Mayfair Rapist, raped a West End croupier and robbed seven women at gunpoint during a six-week period beginning on his thirtieth birthday in March last year. Police found a list of 30 targets including Miss Fullerton, star of the television series *The Charmer*, as well as the former wife of a comedian and other women celebrities he had traced through electoral registers.

When caught on May 14, he told police the robberies were "a game plan" to raise money for a real gun so he could murder his former wife, mother, former mother-in-law, and stepmother.

Barnes, from South Ockendon, Essex, suffered from a psychopathic disorder and a schizophrenic-related condition, the Old Bailey was told. A Rampton psychiatrist described him as "one of the most dangerous men I have seen in my professional career". Barnes was being hunted by eight police forces while he targeted lone women living around the M25. Driving a stolen car, he threatened them with an air pistol that resembled a real firearm.

He admitted 15 offences including rape, kidnap, indecent assault, seven robberies, theft and firearms possession. His victims sat in the public gallery as Judge Boal, QC, was told that the 32-year-old Mayfair croupier tried to commit suicide after her four-hour ordeal, in which she was kidnapped in a Mayfair car park, driven around London in her own car, forced to have sex without a condom and to wash away the evidence.

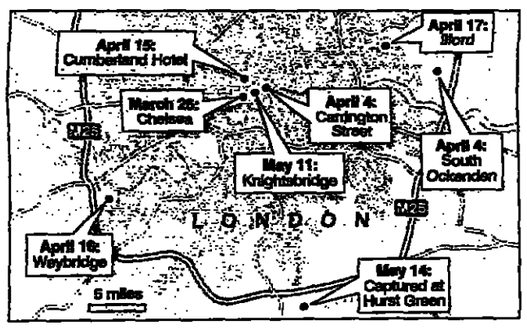
Ten days later he tricked his way into a Finnish businesswoman's hotel room in central London, forced her to strip and told her: "I'm going to rape you" before she screamed and he fled. Other robberies were carried out in Weybridge, Surrey; Ilford, Essex; and Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. Police found a list of potential victims in Bournemouth, London, Berkshire and Manchester, where his former wife lived after escaping from their violent marriage.

He showed little remorse, the court was told, and objected to the presence of a woman police officer. He complained of hearing voices in his head during the robberies and of being in a trance-like state. Judge Boal said: "You struck terror into the hearts of your victims and no doubt put countless other women in fear of becoming your next victim. The medical and emotional consequences on some of your victims is incalculable."

Detective Inspector David Hills, of the Central London major investigation pool, said Barnes had got "reasonably close" to Miss Fullerton and to other women on his list. "Had he had the time, I think he would have got round to them," he said.

A spokesman for Miss Fullerton, 40, said last night: "She was aware of this man at the time. She is delighted that he has been put behind bars and is no longer a danger."

Barnes's stepmother, Drusilla Smith, 53, said he could never accept his mother walking out on him when he was six months old. "When he was 18 he tracked her down, but she still didn't want to know. He has used this as his excuse over the years, but there comes a point when you can't carry on blaming your early life for what you are getting up to," she said.





George: shared a bed with Brandon in squats

Musician sues Boy George over gay sex claim

BY A STAFF REPORTER

ROCK musician Kirk Brandon admitted in court yesterday that he shared a bed with Boy George — who he knew fancied him — but denied the homosexual singer ever made a pass at him.

Brandon, who married his Danish wife two years ago and has a baby daughter, said he had slept with the former Culture Club singer at various squats, when he could not get home after a night's clubbing in the early 1980s.

However, George (real name George O'Dowd), who dressed and behaved as an effeminate homosexual at the time, never laid a hand on him. At the High Court, George's counsel, Patrick Moloney, suggested the blond frontman of Spear of Destiny and Theatre of Hate "crossed the line" in this one relationship and engaged in homosexual activity with someone he thought of almost as a girl.

"I suggest that when you were in bed with Boy George, [various homosexual acts] took place," Mr Moloney said.

Mr Brandon replied: "I would take this moment to categorically deny every single one of those."

Mr Moloney said: "Furthermore, certainly when you were with Mr O'Dowd's friends, if not yours, the two of you behaved in an affectionate manner, embracing, holding hands, as two homosexual lovers would."

Mr Brandon replied: "I would say no to that, sir." He told Mr Justice Douglas Brown that the alleged affair, detailed in George's 1995 autobiography, *Take It Like A Man*, was "a total lie".

Mr Brandon, 40, of East Dulwich, southeast London, is suing Boy George, book publishers Sidgwick and Jackson, Virgin Records and EMI Virgin Music for malicious falsehood over the book and a CD, *Cheapness and Beauty*, which contained a song about him entitled *Unfinished Business*.

He says they damaged his family and business associates at a crucial stage in his career, when he was trying to get back to the top after two years of illness.

Mr Brandon said that when he first met George at The Blitz club in 1980, before he became famous, he thought he was "very strange". It was clear he was a homosexual who liked wearing women's makeup and outrageous clothes. Mr Moloney showed the court photographs in which Mr Brandon and George were lying together on a bed "having a cuddle".

He said he believed that George had tried to "out" him as a homosexual in revenge for his imagined rejection and as a strategy to boost sales of his book and CD. "Unbeknown to me, in the midst of his wealth, his obsession for me turned into something bitter, some might call it evil, a grudge. He believed I had dumped him. Perhaps somewhere in his drug problems, or whatever, his hatred focused on me ... some years later revenge became a cleverly calculated possibility. He wrote his book and wrote of the relationship he really imagined he had had."

The hearing continues.

ANDRÉ CAMARA



Kirk Brandon with his wife Christina and their daughter yesterday

Sister's fear a simple phobia

A WOMAN facing death from leukaemia made a last desperate appeal to her sister yesterday to save her life with a bone-marrow donation. Angela Latham, 39, had her hopes raised last week when her sister Susan Squires promised to reconsider her decision not to donate because of her fear of hospitals. But at the weekend Miss Squires insisted she had not agreed to go ahead with the operation.

Miss Squires might be surprised to learn that her fear is classified medically as being a simple phobia. In Miss Squires's case, the phobia seems anything but simple.

In the consulting room, the phobias of which patients frequently complain are divided into simple phobias, social phobias and agoraphobias. Agoraphobia can be translated as meaning a fear of open places, but it is now used in broader terms to describe the extreme fear induced in someone when they feel that they are unable to leave a situation that they visualise as being threatening. It could be a cinema, a church, a lift or a crowd.

MEDICAL MATTERS

Social phobias are those induced by an unreasonable fear of performing, and of subsequently being judged and criticised for this activity. Problems can vary from speaking and eating in public to having sex.

When patients have one isolated phobia — whether it is a specific fear of spiders, flying, blood, doctors, hospitals, dentists or injections — but are otherwise untroubled, it is described as a simple phobia.

Very often a pulverising dose of a tranquilliser will overcome the immediate problems, but they do not provide any long-term relief and may induce drug-dependency.

Treatment of underlying problems, whether psychiatric, depressive or psychological, can often be treated with psychotherapy or drugs. Some doctors believe that patients should learn to face their fears by being deliberately exposed to them, either in situations that are made gradually more threatening, or by being confronted by the worst aspect of the anxiety that the patient can visualise — by being thrown in, as it were, at the deep end.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Injury time in race with Robbie Fowler

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A TAXI driver broke both arms when he ran into a wall at the end of a school's fun race for fathers that also involved Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool and England footballer. Brian Comer, 39, denied he desperately tried to beat the star forward and lost control.

Mr Comer is suing the governors of St Patrick's RC Primary School, Toxteth, Liverpool, for damages, alleging negligence. Adrian Lyon, for the prosecution, claimed yesterday that there was no track and no finishing line and the school owed a duty of care to Mr Comer.

Mr Fowler told the court he was an old boy of the school which his younger brother and cousins attended. He said he had been invited to take part in the race on July 14, 1994, and agreed as a bit of fun.

He said he wanted to win but slipped at the start and finished by running up the wall at the finish, which he thought was the finishing line.

Asked by the judge whether he thought the other fathers were keen to beat him, Mr Fowler said: "No one said anything about someone especially wanting to win the race."

The case continues.

Father beat up child molester

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN ANGRY father who bit off the earlobe of a man who molested his 10-year-old daughter wept as he walked free from court yesterday.

The 40-year-old stormed round to John Wane's home, swore at him and repeatedly kicked and punched him in the head and body, knocking him unconscious.

As Wane lay motionless on the floor, his attacker, described in court as an "exemplary and hard-working" employee, chewed off his earlobe and spat it into a fireplace. Later he told police: "He had been interfering with my daughter. I will kill him."

Wane, of Stalybridge, Greater Manchester, suffered a broken nose and shoulder, and extensive bruising. He needed plastic surgery on his ear.

Wane, 41, had groped the girl while he was drunk. Earlier this month Wane was jailed for 12 months for indecent assault after forcing the girl to relive her ordeal in the witness box. At Manchester Crown Court yesterday the girl's father — who cannot be named to protect her identity — pleaded guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm and sobbed as he was given a nine-month suspended prison sentence.

Judge Timothy Mort told him: "It is difficult to know what the reaction of a parent might be in such circumstances. Were I to deprive you of your liberty that little girl would suffer the trauma of not only the attack and the ordeal of having to relive it in the witness box, but also to find her father had gone to jail.

"The extreme provocation of this incident make these circumstances wholly exceptional," he added.

Earlier the court was told that the girl was the man's only surviving child.

John Chaplin, for the prosecution, said Wane indecently assaulted the youngster last September after drinking in pubs in Stalybridge all day.

Mark Benson, for the defence, said: "This was extreme provocation involving a man acting out of emotional anger and distress. He acted out of character and he is ashamed of his behaviour and accepts it was wrong."

Judge asks victim to remove make-up

BY PAUL WILKINSON

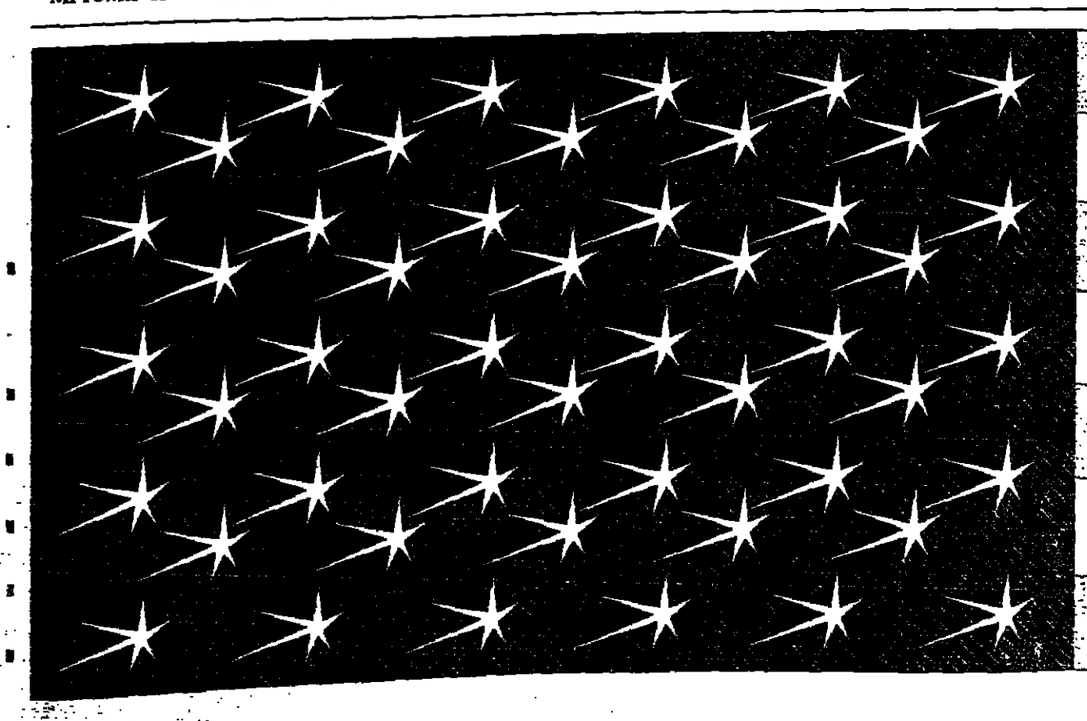
A JUDGE halted a court case so that a young mother could remove her make-up to show the scars from a beating by a former boyfriend.

Judge Grills then awarded £5,000 damages to Amanda Barrott, 29, who is too embarrassed to leave the home without carefully masking the results of the assault. After changing his spectacles to have a close look at the injuries, the judge told her: "I am surprised just how bad the scars are after seeing you without any make-up.

"I accept that the scars can be covered up with make-up, but we pass this way just once and the fact is she will always carry them. For a young woman this is of considerable significance."

He had ordered an adjournment in her claim for pain and trauma at York County Court, so that she could remove her lipstick, foundation, blusher, eye shadow and mascara.

Mark Rogers, 25, a kitchen fitter, attacked her in her York home in March 1995, as her two children slept upstairs. In March last year, he was given 120 hours' community service for assault and criminal damage. He was then ordered to pay £200 compensation for smashing her stereo system and £250 for her injuries.



THE BIG NETWORK
NOW WORKS
ACROSS AMERICA.

To buy or hire a US compatible mobile for use on the GlobalRoam® Service call 0800 42 55 42.
GLOBALROAM®: IS OFFERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH NETWORK OPERATORS T-MOBIL (GERMANY) AND GTE (US). TELECOM SECURICOR CELLULAR RADIO LTD.
cellnet

Labour



BRITAIN HAS DROPPED TO 21ST
IN THE WORLD PROSPERITY LEAGUE.
ANOTHER FINE MESS.

VOTE LABOUR. BECAUSE BRITAIN DESERVES BETTER.

www.labourwinner.org.uk

هكذا من الإعلان

Management ethic 'is driving young doctors to despair'

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS believe they are being turned into "technical monkeys" by clipboard-toting managers more interested in number crunching than the health of patients, according to a damning study of the health service for the British Medical Association.

Unrealistic demands and a culture of complaint inspired by the Patient's Charter were found to be causing stress and burnout. Nurses were often regarded as "the enemy", while poor housekeeping meant doctors were required to clean floors, wheel patients to the front door or run around trying to find batteries for equipment.

The survey, written by Isobel Allen of the Policy Studies Institute, concentrated on consultants, general practitioners and junior doctors aged under 40. It found the stress of constantly being "bleeped" and of being required to meet management targets meant that most were already planning an early retirement.

The report says: "There was repeated evidence that for many of them their commitment to patients was the only factor which was preventing them from leaving medicine." Even the doctors' traditional spirit of inquiry was disappearing. "The younger generation of doctors are so occupied in routine aspects of the practice of medicine and the external requirements that now surround it that they are perhaps unable to lift their heads above the routine in the way previous generations did."

Doctors' problems stemmed largely from increasingly intrusive and aggressive management, which meant speeding up consultations and seeing more patients. "Many comment that their professional judgment and practice were being challenged by administrators with little conception of the level and type of patient care that doctors are trying to deliver."

Increasing demands by "managers with clipboards" meant "their ability to provide caring and compassionate medicine was being constantly eroded by management's demands on them to maintain throughput and numbers and to account for their time."

The intrusive management, however, failed to provide good working conditions. "Inadequate accommodation, dirty towels, uncleaned rooms and no hot meals amounted to a failure of organisational housekeeping."

Far more serious were failures "of ill-maintained or failing equipment, demarcation disputes between medical and non-medical staff concerning vital support services to patients, and inappropriate use of skilled medical personnel on tasks which required a much lower level of skill". The report also found a breakdown in co-operation between medical and nursing staff.

The survey does not represent BMA policy but it crystalises feelings of younger doctors working in hospitals and practices all around the country. It involved creating small discussion groups of doctors drawn from a random sample of the BMA's database, based on age, sex and grade in the health service.



Indy the tiger visits Molly Ladbrook-Hutt in Guy's Hospital. "The week before we had rabbits," Molly said

Tiger ousts rabbit as pet treatment on the ward

BY TIM JONES

TOYS, books and puzzles help to keep sick children amused but they cannot compare with a visit from a tiger.

The introduction of Indy, a five-month-old Bengal tiger, to the children's unit at Guy's Hospital, southeast London, marks a new stage in pet therapy.

Accompanied by Giles Clark, its keeper, Indy, who has been hand reared, behaved impeccably as it rested its front paws on the beds and gazed at young admirers.

Molly Ladbrook-Hutt, 13, who has been at Guy's for more than five weeks, said: "The week before we had rabbits so the tiger was fantastic. It was so exciting and made me feel better."

The visit was instigated by Melinda Edwards, the principal child psychologist, who is a great believer in pet therapy. She said: "I expected a flop-eared bunny or a little dog, not a baby tiger. It is an exceptional treat for the children, not to mention the staff, to get that close to such an exotic animal."

Hospital building plan 'could harm NHS'

BY IAN MURRAY

THE National Health Service will shrink and be unable to provide a comprehensive range of treatments as a direct result of government efforts to attract private funding to build hospitals, according to the *British Medical Journal*.

The report forecasts reductions of 26 per cent of beds in England and 30 per cent in Scotland over the next five years. "The Government has set great store on increasing activity as a performance measure of more patients treated and shorter waiting times. The bed reductions proposed here will reduce the level of activity," Dr Allyson Pollock, of St George's Hospital Medical School, writes in this week's issue.

Dr Pollock investigated 17 first-wave hospital schemes funded by the Private Finance Initiative on behalf of the NHS Consultants' Association, the Radical Statistics Health Group and the NHS Support Federation.

Under the initiative NHS trusts invite private contractors to meet "output specification", defined not by the number of beds needed but the expected level of clinical activity. Once the contractor has been selected there could be further bed reductions. The contractor, having bought the site from the NHS, can make other use of areas not needed to fulfill its contract.

The report said that because of the failure of the private plans to consider the impact of the closure of smaller hospitals the total number of beds lost had been underestimated.

Psychiatric care close to collapse, says report

BY OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MENTAL health services are on the point of collapse in some parts of the country and the community care policy is in danger of falling apart, according to the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

In a report published yesterday the college said that the 50 per cent decrease in the number of psychiatric beds in the past 15 years had not been matched by an increase in services to cope with patients no longer in hospital care. It said that provision of beds to provide long-term care for very dependent mentally ill people and staff shortages meant that proven therapies were not widely available.

The college blames "a fundamental failure in the development and implementation of mental health policies" for the crisis. While supporting the principles of community care, the college said that a widespread failure of health and local authorities to develop joint plans to implement the policy had put the system under intolerable pressure.

The report said that 12 per cent of men and 18 per cent of women had clinically significant psychiatric problems, and 100 million working days a year were lost through mental health-related causes. The financial burden of this, the 5,000 suicides a year, and the high cost of inquiries into homicides by mentally disordered people needed to be seen against the need to restore the resources "that quietly leached away into other parts of the NHS in the early 1990s".

Eye implants can save sight of Aids patients

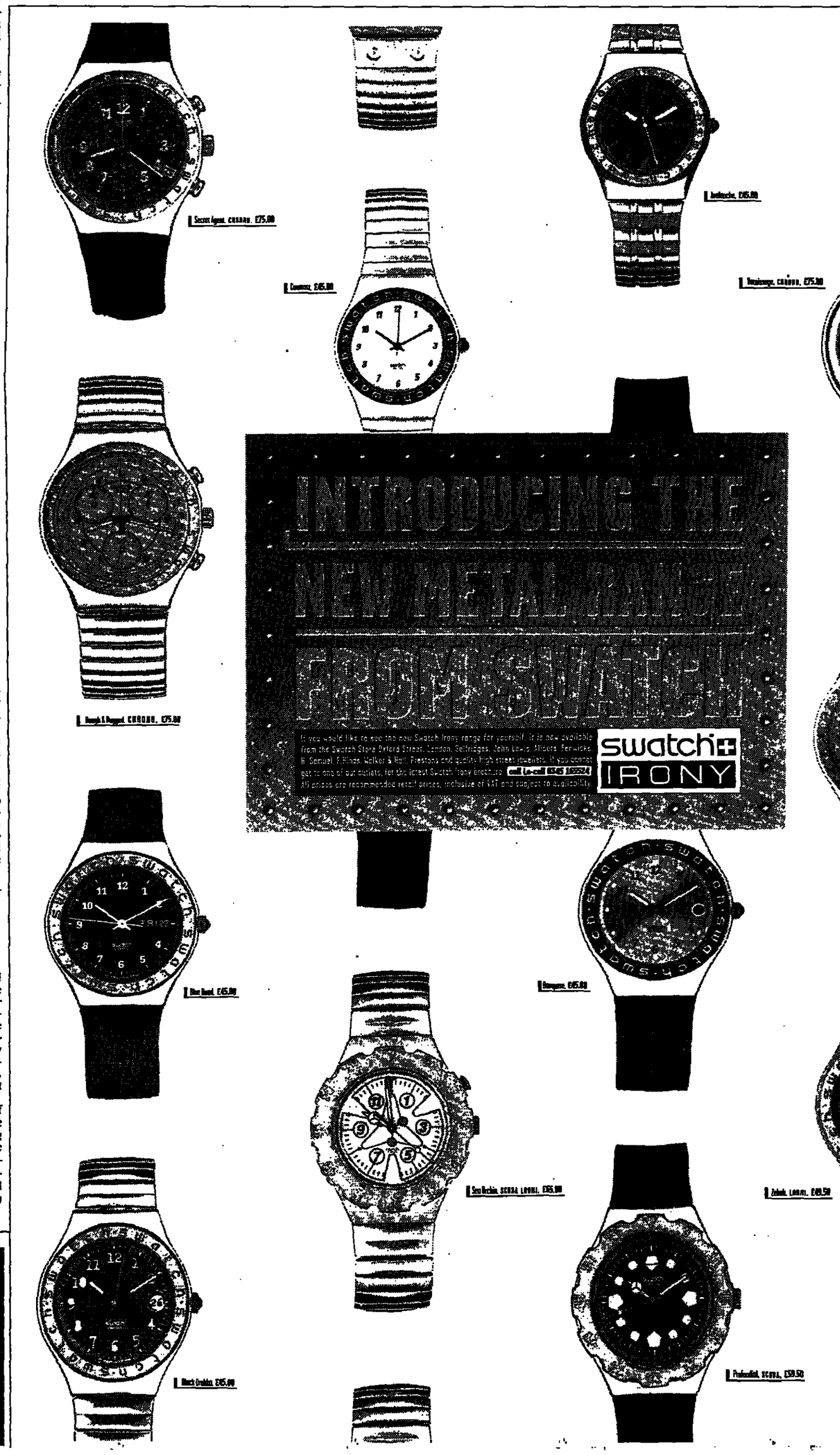
AN IMPLANT placed inside the eye can save the sight of Aids patients with a common infection, (Nigel Hawkes writes). By releasing drugs slowly and in the right place, the Vitrasert implant controls eye infections caused by cytomegalovirus, which affect up to 40 per cent of Aids patients.

Dr Bal Dhillon, consultant ophthalmologist at the Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, believes the implant could be used to treat common eye conditions such as macular degeneration — the commonest cause of blindness in the elderly — and diabetic retinopathy, blindness caused by diabetes. "In any chronic disease of the back of the eye, getting the drug to the right place is the key," he said.

"Drops work for the front of the eye but for the retina we either have to inject the drug into the eye or dose the entire patient, which can have side-effects. The operation normally takes less than an hour and patients generally return home the same day."

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE
MARE ST. LONDON E8 4SA.
(Charity Ref. No. 231323)
Since 1905 we have shared the grief and eased the pain of countless suffering souls.
Last year alone 900 found peace with the help of your vital gifts. Most of them died of cancer – but so serenely that you would hardly know.
Your concern is as encouraging as your generosity and we thank you for your inspiring trust.
Sister Superior.

over 25?
car insurance
more than £200?
you need help.
0800 11 22 33
help



Chocolate carrot could help tomorrow's adults beat cancer

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

CHOCOLATE-flavoured carrots went on sale yesterday as part of a drive to turn the vegetable-resistant children of today into the cancer-resistant adults of tomorrow.

Backed by the Cancer Research Campaign and packed by Iceland Foods, the carrots are aimed at the choosy palates of children who refuse to eat vegetables and thus fail to absorb enough vitamin C to help to provide protection against cancer in later life. The range also includes cheese-and-onion cauliflower, pizza-flavoured sweetcorn and peas that taste like baked beans.

They have been tested and approved by panels of children aged five to thirteen in Wales and the North West. The tasters rejected bubble-gum broccoli, toffee-apple sweetcorn and prawn-cocktail cauliflower but a second generation of the Wacky Veg range will be launched in June for children who are not tempted by the first offerings. The idea came from Professor Gordon McVie, Director-General of the cancer campaign, after a University of Strathclyde study showed that, increasingly, mothers were not bothering to cook vegetables for children, who also refuse to eat them in school canteens.

The only day in the year when children ate enough vegetables was Christmas, he said, when they were part of a festive meal cooked with more care and served with more sauces. "For me, it is an experiment in changing behaviour patterns. It is a humorous experiment and *certainly wacky but it is in no* way frivolous," he added.

"Health professionals can tell people to stop smoking, or to use strong sun cream protection but the advice is often ignored. It is the same with vegetables. A third of cancers are due to diet and the first hurdle is to get children to eat any vegetable at all.

"Every parent knows that fresh fruit and vegetables are good for children but they just don't serve them. Children are cocking their noses up at the advice, so what can we do to get them to alter their eating patterns? I thought of all the supermarket aisles packed with different-flavour crisps, and thought that if children liked eating potatoes in this way, it might be possible with other vegetables."

The challenge was taken up two months ago by Malcolm Walker, chairman of Iceland, who admitted he originally thought it would be no more than a good PR stunt. "In fact it is turning out to be a very serious business indeed," he said. "We have made tons of them and *this is going to be a* big seller. We expect to turn over around £500,000 in the next three months. These flavours may sound revolting to adults, but children like them.

"Chefs like Nico may be a bit sniffy but that has nothing to do with it. Adults usually aren't thrilled by what their children eat but if this gets them to eat their vegetables I don't see it as a great problem. It is better to eat good vegetables tasting of chocolate than not to eat vegetables at all."

The range sells at 99p for a 1 lb bag compared with £1.29 for carrot-flavoured carrots. "We think the pricing is right and affordable for parents who care about children's health," Mr Walker said.

Two techniques have been used for the flavours: the carrots and sweetcorn come with granules of the flavour mixed with the vegetables, *while the cauliflower and peas* are coated with a seasoned sauce. Iceland says the frozen vegetables retain all their vitamin C, while fresh ones lose it rapidly after picking.

Leading article, page 23

Crime against taste, say chefs

LEADING chefs' reactions to the child-friendly vegetables ranged from disbelief to sadness.

Marco Pierre White, a father of three who runs The Restaurant Marco Pierre White at the Hyde Park Hotel, a Michelin three-star establishment, said: "Not wishing to comment says everything about these products. I think it is better to bribe children than this — say they can go to the park if they eat their food. These products will destroy children's future eating habits."

Nico Ladenis, of the Michelin three-star Chez Nico at 90 Park Lane, who has two grown-up daughters, said: "I cannot conceive of chocolate going with carrots but if they have to use weird combinations they are doing it the wrong way. The colour alone must be horrid: people eat with the eye, it's the first sense. I don't know how children would be attracted to such a messy thing."

Albert Roux, chef of the Michelin two-star Le Gavroche, who has two children and two grandchildren, said: "It is criminal to do this to children's palates. If you want a child to eat vegetables you have to talk to them about flavour. They must identify the flavour of each vegetable."

STEVE HILL



Christopher Coates, 3, conducts his own trial at Shenley Fields Nursery School in Birmingham

It's out of this world, says young test panel

By Valerie Elliott

WHAT, my son James wanted to know, are these chocolate carrots for? "Are they for people in space?"

Quite. But he judged them "really nice". "It's just like having hot drinking chocolate. I can taste the carrots *though*. They seem really delicious, not like the carrots you give us."

That seemed to be the vital ingredient for James, 11, and his brother Charles, 6; although the latter was not so convinced. Nor was he too keen on the baked bean-flavoured peas. "You know I don't like peas, and I don't like baked beans either."

Courageously, James pushed spoonfuls into his mouth and beamed. "It's just like peas with baked bean sauce. But I think it would have been better if they had just used tomato sauce."

He summed up: "I think they are very nice, but don't bother to get any more. I couldn't eat them with anything else. Who would eat this chocolate stuff with chicken or lamb chops?"

"Because it meowed too much."



This was the "excuse" the owner gave for trying to drown his cat.

It meowed too much.

He'd thought of giving the cat to a friend, but decided it would be "less hassle" to drown it.

So he put it in a basket and threw it from a bridge into the local canal.

The basket hit the bridge wall and burst open, allowing the cat to escape.

From the basket, that is.

It managed to swim for more than half an hour in the freezing water, during which time it meowed quite a lot.

It was finally rescued and taken to an RSPCA hospital, where it was treated for exhaustion, shock and fluid on the lungs.

It died a week later.

The owner was fined £300 and given a 3 year conditional discharge.

Astonishingly, he was not banned from keeping animals and now owns another cat.

Despite this kind of disappointment, the RSPCA never gives up.

In 1996, we investigated 101,751 complaints. 1997 will be much the same.

This week is RSPCA Week.

If you would like to join us, support us or make a donation, call 01403 223284.

Or you can write to us at the RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG.

RSPCA week
APRIL 21-27

THE AIMS OF THE RSPCA ARE TO PREVENT CRUELTY AND PROMOTE KINDNESS TO ANIMALS. REGISTERED CHARITY 219099

Council may dye canal to restore colour to fishing

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

BRITAIN'S oldest canal is to be dyed khaki or blue in an attempt to protect the fish from being plundered by cormorants before anglers have a chance to catch them.

Exeter City Council has devised the scheme because of growing complaints by fishermen who say the clarity of the water in the Exeter Ship Canal is spoiling their sport.

Jack Nott, the council's river and canal manager, said: "We are looking at using natural dyes to put in the canal on days before angling matches. This could make it easier for the anglers to catch fish and deter cormorants by making it harder for the birds to see their prey."

Until the 1960s coasters regularly used the canal, stirring up sediment and keeping the water muddy. Nowadays the water is crystal clear during winter, which has increased the number of fish being taken by cormorants.

Martin Rich, chairman of the council's leisure committee, said: "We have tried various other ways of increasing turbidity, such as dragging chains along the bottom of the canal and letting in muddy water from the nearby River Exe, but the effects were shortlived. The plan is to try the dyes out on a two-mile *stretch of the canal most used* by anglers but we still need to get approval from English Nature and other environmental bodies because the canal flows through a site of special scientific interest."

Anglers said yesterday that more drastic action was needed to control cormorants. Paul Marks, membership trustee of the Exeter and District Angling Association, said: "Twenty years ago you rarely saw a cormorant on the canal but last December there were about 70 in permanent residence and each bird can catch about 2lb of fish a day. Culling is the only real solution."

Anglers want the Government to relax the legal protection given to cormorants and permit culling of the birds by fisheries managers. But ornithologists strongly oppose any change in the law. They blame the rapid growth of artificially stocked lakes and reservoirs for the increased number of cormorants.



The cormorant: greedy

Silent spring as cold halves bird numbers

GARDENS and woodlands are expected to be quieter places this spring (Nick Nuttall writes). Populations of many common birds have halved over the past year.

Experts believe the bitterly cold spring and early summer of 1996 made it impossible for many parent birds to feed their young because caterpillars and insect larvae were in short supply.

Chris Mead, of the British Trust for Ornithology, which carries out the annual surveys, said: "I estimate that more than 40 million chicks failed to appear over the eight species hit worst." All 24 widespread species surveyed by bird ringers at 120 sites produced fewer young. Worst sufferers are the long-tailed tit (55 per cent down), dunnock (48 per cent), wren (45), whitethroat (44), blackcap (43), lesser whitethroat (39), sedge warbler (32) and robin (27).

The treecreeper, chaffinch, chiffchaff, blue tit, great tit, garden warbler and willow warbler declined by 27 to 18 per cent in the biggest widespread failure since the survey began in the early 1980s.

DIRECT LINE INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT

NOTE: You'll make a lot of these with a Direct Line Savings Account.

Balance	Annual Gross Rate
£1-£4,999	4.50%
£5,000-£9,999	5.00%
£10,000-£24,999	5.60%
£25,000-£49,999	5.75%
£50,000-£99,999	6.00%
£100,000+	6.10%

All rates correct at 18th April 1997.

DIRECT LINE
A Royal Bank of Scotland company

Call one of the numbers below for high interest with instant access.

0181 667 1121 LONDON
0161 833 1121 MANCHESTER
0141 221 1121 GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 9pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday.
ITV Teletext page 377.
Please quote ref. TT73

Calls may be recorded for your added security.
Direct Line and the red telephone are trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc, used with its permission. Rates subject to variation.


A butt kicking Saxo 1.6i VTR with 2 years free insurance.
Now there's something you don't see everyday.
Waheyy

Police officers known as The Syndicate showed suspect forged document, appeal court told

'Pressure and lies made Bridgewater man confess'

BY ADRIAN LEE

A GROUP of police officers known as The Syndicate used pressure and forgery to pressure an innocent man into confessing involvement in the shooting of the newspaper boy Carl Bridgewater, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Opening the appeal by the Bridgewater Four against their convictions for the 1978 killing, Michael Mansfield, QC, said that police were intent on gaining an admission. His client, Patrick Molloy — who died in prison four years later — had denied involvement 80 times but he was isolated, refused access to a solicitor, questioned for hours and cracked after being shown a forged confession by another of the accused.

Mr Molloy was convicted of manslaughter, sentenced to 12 years and died aged 53. Three others — Vincent Hickey, now 44, his cousin Michael Hickey, 35, and James Robinson, 63 — served 18 years for the murder at Yew Tree Farm, near Stourbridge, West Midlands.



Carl Bridgewater

The three, free on bail, listened as Mr Mansfield outlined "serious flaws" in the case against Mr Molloy which hinged on his confession at Wombourne Police Station on December 10, 1978. The confession, Mr Mansfield said, was "achieved by a combination of two forces — oppression and a carefully contrived strategy of deception". It could be laid at the door of a particular squad of officers from Regional Crime Squad number 4, based at Bilston.

Detective Inspector Jeffrey Turner headed the interrogation, Mr Mansfield said. Detective sergeants John Robbins and Dennis Walker, and detective constables Graham Leeke and John Perkins, a team known by colleagues as The Syndicate, were involved. Other Staffordshire officers may have turned a blind eye, Mr Mansfield said. They included Detective Chief Inspector Weslea Watson.

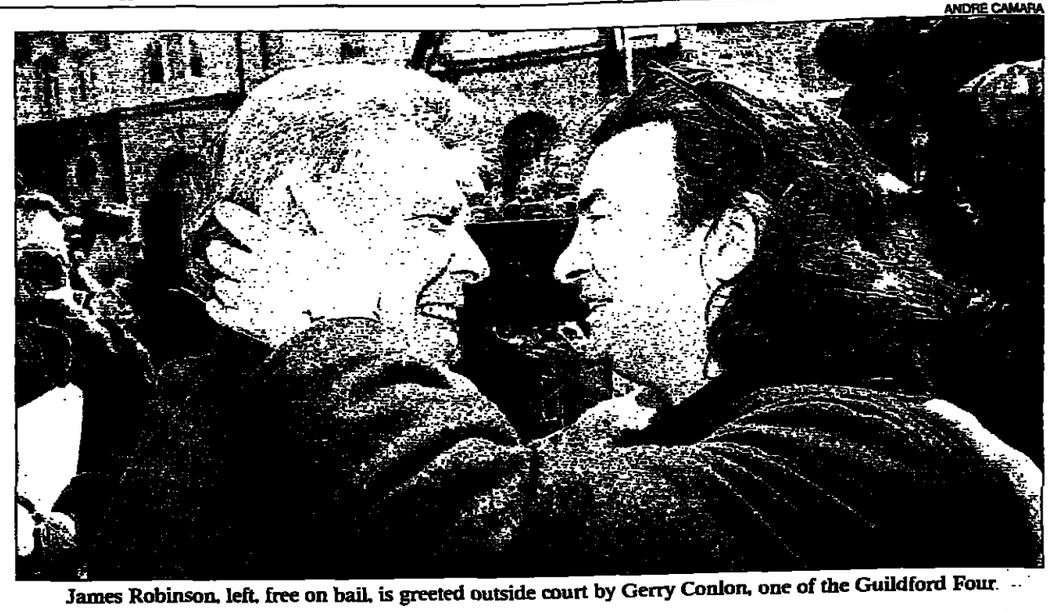
Some of the 20 interviews of Mr Molloy, lasting 31 hours, were conducted in cells. "It was intended to create an atmosphere of isolation and claustrophobia," Mr Mansfield said. Many had not been recorded or details subsequently lost. "There is a serious question mark over what was really going on in that police station in order to contrive and construct a situation where, in the end, Mr Molloy did what the officers wanted. The approach of the police was to plainly and bluntly disbelieve the denials and assert from the beginning that he was guilty, although perhaps he did not pull the trigger."

Mr Molloy was left with the impression that he had no option other than confession. Detective Constable Robbins had told Merseyside officers in 1992 that he "would pull the handle on these men, open the trap door and do it with a bacon sandwich in his hand".

During interviews, Mr Molloy's pauses were interpreted by police as guilt. They hinted that Vincent Hickey had confessed and finally set a trap. A forged confession by Hickey was shown to Mr Molloy. The document later disappeared but scientific tests this year proved its existence when slight imprints from the forgery were found on Mr Molloy's confession. Writing on the forgery matched that of detectives Perkins, now dead, and Leeke.

According to the officers, at 3.40pm Molloy "dropped his head, sighed and said 'I was there at the farm': he dictated a confession between 4pm and 4.20pm". Mr Mansfield said it was almost impossible for the 600-word confession to have been recorded in 20 minutes and there were remarkable similarities between the initial verbal confession and that dictated while under caution. Six sentences were identical, and 23 of 68 clauses. Dr Brian Butterworth, of the University of London, who studies the psychology of language, concluded that the chances of these occurring independently were less than one in a million. The appeal continues.

ANDRE CAMARA



James Robinson, left, free on bail, is greeted outside court by Gerry Conlon, one of the Guildford Four.



Also known as Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, Registered Charity No. 261017, until 20th April 1997. Photo posed by models to protect privacy.

Macmillan nurses help people get on with their lives, despite cancer. They need your support.
To make a donation to Macmillan Cancer Relief, please telephone free on 0500 800 111.

Macmillan cancer relief

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kwik Save blackmailer is jailed

A blackmailer who threatened to contaminate goods from Kwik Save with razor blades, needles, mercury and rat's blood has been jailed for six years. Gerard Farrell, 40, from Liverpool, pleaded guilty to his part in a £500,000 ransom plot with threats of arson attacks if the demands were not acknowledged on the National Lottery show, Preston Crown Court was told. Farrell's demand note read: "Mystic Meg must say, 'I see a windfall for Scorpio'."

'Joyride' victims

Five teenagers killed in a stolen car that crashed at Crumpsall, Manchester, were identified as Sean Cosgrove, 16, Jonathan Openshaw, Peter Warburton and Sean O'Neill, all 17, and Jamie Irving, 18.

Not guilty plea

Tracey Andrews, 27, accused of the roadside murder of her fiancé, Lee Harvey, in December, appeared at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday formally to enter a not guilty plea. Bail was renewed.

Circus death

A circus acrobat has died in hospital at Newport, Gwent, a week after breaking his neck in a back somersault from the shoulders of a colleague. Aziz Elmeslahy, 23, was touring with Gerry Cottle's circus.

Shelling out

Linda Southern, 45, from Manchester, has spent £80 having identity microchips inserted under the skin of her tortoises. "At this time of year they'll dash off and try to mate with anything," she said.

Protection force officer held over wife's death

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A ROYAL protection officer was arrested yesterday by detectives investigating the murder of his wife.

PC Michael Coulton, 52, who patrolled Buckingham Palace as part of his duties with Scotland Yard's SO14 division, was taken from his home in Woking, Surrey, to Bracknell police station, where he was interviewed throughout the day.

His wife, Patricia, 52, was stabbed to death on January 10 in her car in the grounds of Lynwood Nursing Home in Sunningdale, Berkshire, where she had worked as a care assistant for eight years. Her body was found lying across the driver's seat of her white Renault 19 with her legs dangling outside the vehicle.

PC Coulton attended his wife's funeral last Thursday. Detectives hunting the killer have recently been to America to question witnesses and take statements.

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said a 52-year-old man had been arrested in connection with the Patricia Coulton murder. He was being interviewed by officers from the force.

The couple, who have two adult children, were first married in 1968. They divorced 15 years later, only to be reunited in 1986 and remarried two years ago. As well as his duties at Buckingham Palace, PC Coulton was one of the team responsible for security at the Duke of York's house, Sunninghill Park, about two miles from the murder scene. He reported his wife missing after she failed to return from an evening shift.

HOUSE INSURANCE
SAVE UP TO 50% or MORE
e.g. LONDON & HOME COUNTIES
£100,000 Buildings Sum Insured
Premium Only £154.00
LOWER Premiums in most Other Areas
0345 123111
All calls charged at local rate
Ask for a quote on the Internet: http://www.hhh.co.uk
Hill House Hammond
Cutting The Cost Of Your Insurance

Posthouse first for all the right reasons
No. 11
Relaxing Lounge & Bar
After a long day on the road, sit back and enjoy a cool drink or a light meal in comfortable, informal surroundings.
FORTE Posthouse
To book any hotel call free 0800 404040
or call your local travel agent

ELECTION 97



'I had an MP in the back of my cab...'
The Cabbie en route to Westminster
Damian Whitworth – p10



What are the parties' policies on Europe?
Analysis – page 16



Campaigning a world away from Westminster
Ian Lang in Galloway
Matthew Parris – p15

Edmonds breaks Labour code of silence



Edmonds: critical of the Shadow Chancellor

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

JOHN EDMONDS became the first union leader to break ranks with the Labour Party yesterday, telling the Scottish TUC conference that he had been urged not to attend.

"You may have noticed some of us have not been doing too much public speaking in the last few weeks," the leader of the General Municipal and Boilermakers' Union said. "It was suggested to me that I might plead some other engagement, rather than come to Glasgow. But I have already washed my hair once this week."

He went on to attack Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, saying Labour's commitment to stick to Conservative spending plans for two years would not meet the wishes of the British public. Looking forward to "that day when the new government breaks free from the Tory shackles", Mr Edmonds said it could not come too early for him.

Until he spoke, the Labour leadership had been privately congratulating itself for managing successfully to dampen down potentially damaging moves by the STUC, especially over a national minimum wage. Broadcasters covering the conference said that Labour media managers had pressed them to downplay reports from the STUC in their news bulletins.

Asked later whether it was the Labour leadership that had pressed him not to attend, Mr Edmonds declined to elborate. But sources close to Mr Edmonds, whose relations with Tony Blair are poor, agree that only the most senior Labour figures would have tried to prevent him going to the STUC.

Other union leaders attending the conference said that they had received no approaches from Labour or anyone else not to attend the STUC. Rodney Bickerstaffe and Bill Morris, general secretaries of the Unison public employees and TGWU transport workers' unions respectively, said that no pressure had been brought to bear on them.

The Labour leadership did enjoy one victory, however, when a resolution on the national minimum wage was unexpectedly withdrawn by the Labour loyalist shopworkers' union, Usdaw. Mr Bickerstaffe had wanted to urge unions to submit to Labour's planned Low Pay Commission a formula for the wage to be set at half male median earnings, which would translate to an hourly rate of £4.42. Labour is insistent it will not set a rate ahead of the election.

The Labour leadership avoided a damaging revolt when union leaders failed to back a demand for the railways to be renationalised within the first term of a Labour government. But delegates endorsed a resolution backed by Aslef calling on a Labour government to honour its former commitment to a publicly owned and accountable system and to establish "a clear timetable for the return of railway companies to public ownership". Labour dropped this commitment in its manifesto, which instead backed greater regulation for the railways.

Lew Adams, leader of the train drivers' union Aslef, told the conference that Labour should stick to its policy on rail privatistion agreed at last year's party conference. Clearly responding to perceived shifts on privatisation by Mr Blair, Mr Adams said he "expected" conference policy on the issue to be implemented by a Labour government.

"That is the policy that is acceptable to the party leadership, we were told. That is the policy we will expect to be implemented. This is Aslef's bottom line. We are honest people who expect promises will be kept. We are democrats. We don't subscribe to mindless militancy, nor do we want favours. We want fairness." He added: "We have every right to expect that a party campaigning on the slogan 'Britain deserves better' and the next Prime Minister who pledges 'trust me' will deliver on their promises."

Earlier, a resolution calling for a repeal of anti-trade union laws and for unions to defy these laws was massively defeated, with no union battalions supporting it. Delegates voted instead for a legal right to recognition where there was "clear support" for this from the workforce, which is now Labour policy.

Prescott gives meaningless an entirely new meaning



John Prescott sees good omens everywhere. He could speak like other politicians if he felt like it. The punchline is that he doesn't need to, says Ben Macintyre

AFTER 33 days in orbit through 59 constituencies, John Prescott finally lost his remaining grip on conventional grammar yesterday, to the undisguised admiration of the voters of Notting Hill.

In a feat of political oratory unequalled during this election, Labour's Deputy Leader delivered a high-speed ten-minute speech in the middle of Portobello Road market that was seamless, themeless and unfettered by syntax or, it seemed, the need to breathe.

Mr Prescott's address began with what appeared to be various augurs of Labour victory as witnessed during his marathon slog around the country: "In Swindon we had the RAF flypast they clearly know what's what in Grimsby we saw that comet Hale-Bopp or whatever when I came along Hyde Park I got the 21-gun salute must be someone's else's birthday come May the first I'm going to be dancing 'round that maypole with Tony Blair. . ."

Mr Prescott has said so many things in so many places that he now says one enormous thing in a single fantastic sentence. His multilingual listeners, including West Indians, Moroccans, Bangladeshis and two bewildered French tourists, may be accustomed to hearing English rendered in a variety of ways, but Mr Prescott's torrent of campaign elision must have placed the language in an altogether new light.

Before his arrival in West London, Mr Prescott had become embroiled in the traffic jams caused by the IRA security alerts and was forced to scrap his first two engagements of the day, no doubt causing a critical build-up of rhetoric which, when it was eventually uncorked, exploded magnificently.

"That John Major he said John Prescott's only a bar-steward isn't that terrible shows that the contempt that Mr Major has for ordinary people doing an ordinary jobs he even had a got at me syntax that's 'cos I sailed failed the 11-plus system they want to bring back there's the difference it's the education of for the many not the few. . ."

Flecks of spittle had begun to appear at the sides of Mr Prescott's mouth and a lesser man would have collapsed long before from oxygen deprivation, but Labour's Deputy Leader was just getting into his three-legged stride.

"Is that the bear you know we met the headless chicken in Basildon Basildon remember that horrible night in Basildon Doctor Mawhinney he's the only doctor make you sick just lookin' at 'im Doctor Mawhinney I got a message from you for you there aren't any safe seats Tory seats that chicken's ten points ahead of Major there's already two parties two manifestos he had his birthday last week you know where he went the Happy Eater it's the only place that'll take his orders . . ."

Any politician who has been on the stump this long is likely to sound repetitive, but it is the singular virtue of Mr Prescott's unique approach to the English language that he appears to be delivering every speech as if the words had only just occurred to him, or were being simultaneously translated from Chinese, perhaps through a tiny microphone implanted in his sideburns. His very lack of polish lends earnest believability.

I suspect that this effect, in which overlapping waves of speech gradually drown out any specific meaning, is entirely intentional. Mr Prescott could probably sound as clinical as Jeremy Paxman if he wanted to, but from the plethora of disjointed phrases and slogans emerges a generalised sense of energy and outrage, from which the audience then picks what it wants, or can extract.

"I hope he can win, man," said Bernard Niles, a West Indian who came to Notting Hill in the 1950s. "We had too much of that Tory man, man."

Mr Prescott swerved over the finishing line with a last flourish: "On May first let's have you out we want some decency in politics."

Before going on a walkabout the West Indian sit-com actor Ram John "Pork Pie" Holder, he set to work on the highly-polished oil drums of the Ebony Steel Trust, the steel band that had heralded his arrival with a rendition of *When the Saints go Marching in*. The eerily discordant plinking produced by Labour's Deputy Leader seemed wholly appropriate. Mr Prescott insisted he was playing a tune. "This is modern jazz, so you won't understand it," he told the crowd.

CHRIS HARRIS



The beat of a different drum: Prescott with Ram John Holder in Portobello Road market. Security delays had caused a critical build-up of rhetoric

Irn Bru Lady drinks in admiration of Scottish voters

Once reviled over the border for the poll tax, Baroness Thatcher enjoyed a warm welcome as she campaigned in Stirling yesterday. *Magnus Linklater reports*

ONCE she called him her "Young Lochinvar", Sir Walter Scott's mythical knight, who carried the broadsword of Thatcherism from Downing Street to Scotland. Now she was back to help him to save his seat.

Baroness Thatcher came to Stirling yesterday to throw her weight behind Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, who is battling to save a fragile majority of 236 (boundary changes make this a notional figure). There was a time not so long ago when Tories in Scotland would have begged Central Office to keep her south of the border lest she cost them any more votes. Now she is a secret weapon.

But, like all secret weapons, the effect was unpredictable. What the voters of Stirling — or those who were close enough — witnessed yesterday, was as bizarre a public relations exercise as any in this election. To see a posse of political reporters straining to detect what the former Prime Minister had to say about kitchen surfaces, whether she approved of the Spice Girls, or understood the significance of Irn Bru, is to see politics reduced to surrealism.

Let it be revealed that she appeared to endorse the Spice Girls as enthusiastically as they supported her. On being asked by a group of media students to sign the front cover of the Spice Girls' new book, *Girl Power*, she did so with a flourish. Asked what her reaction was to being called the first Spice Girl, she said: "I rather agree." Pressed on the subject, she said: came up with rather a good line: "Michael and I put as much spice into politics as the Spice Girls put into singing."

She would certainly have approved of Mel B's comment: "The strong will survive and the wise excel." She might have been less certain about Emma's political credo: "I don't want to be a cutie. I want to be a hot sexy bitch." Baroness Thatcher's processions these days are more royal than political, except that you can get closer to royalty. We were left to glean what she thought of marble top working surfaces. "We are going home," she said. "We want a new kitchen." Spin-doctors were called on to interpret this, but even they confessed themselves stumped.

On to Safeway, where a middle-aged lady, seeing the police arrive, said: "They must be having trouble with shoplifters." Caught by a roving microphone, the Baroness did deliver herself of one political comment. "I am here to support Michael Forsyth, and to support the Conservatives," she said. "We have done very well for the whole of the United Kingdom in the last 18 years, and it didn't just happen. We made it happen." Mr Forsyth beamed.

Then it was down to some serious shopping. She collected carrots, top side of beef, half a leg of lamb and a pound of Scottish butter. She looked blankly, however, at the bottles of Irn Bru, Scotland's national drink. This she had plainly never heard of, and though this lapse alone might in earlier days have lost Mr Forsyth his majority, no one seemed to mind. The woman who was once labelled public enemy No 1 in Scotland for introducing the poll tax, is now accorded something close to respect, if not admiration. It's amazing what the absence of power will do.

"She's here in the heart of Braveheart country," said Charles Archibald, 60, from Cumbernauld. "And you have to respect her. She comes over as quite an attractive grandmother."

Finally, the bill, and this time she was not going to be caught out by the lack of a cheque guarantee card. To the admiration of reporters, she produced Scottish banknotes, fumbling only when she appeared to have some difficulty in deciphering which was which. A £10 note and a fiver is not enough these days to meet a bill for £17.50. That's Thatcherism for you.

SIR WALTER SCOTT'S MYTHICAL HERO

O Young Lochinvar is come out of the West
Through all the wide border his steed was the best:
And save his good broadsword, his weapons had none.
He rode all unarm'd, and he rode all alone.
So faithful in love, and so dauntless in war,
There never was a knight like the young Lochinvar.



Calais
begins with sea...

Take the shortest sea route to France and cross the Channel to Calais.

Cruise from Dover on a luxurious car ferry or hop on a hovercraft or catamaran. With duty free shops, restaurants and entertainment all aboard and departures around every half hour, what could be easier?

Take in the sights, enjoy a bite, even stay for the night. You'll be spoilt for choice with the many shops, hypermarkets, hotels and restaurants. And you'll be ready to begin your journey into Europe.

For a special day or a longer stay, remember, Calais *begins with sea.*

Dover-Calais over 140 crossings daily... P&O EUROPEAN FERRIES, STENA LINE, SEAFRANCE & HOVERSPEED

Labour cabbie talking his way to the Commons

Damian Whitworth hails a driving force but just can't make him stop

IT appeared that *The Times* had a scoop: a London cab driver who didn't like talking.

Clive Efford, 38, is a cabbie and Labour candidate for Eltham, the 24th seat on Labour's hit list. Yet his staff replied to interview requests by insisting that he did not wish to share his opinions with readers of national newspapers. An investigation was launched.

A team was despatched yesterday to the party offices in Eltham, southeast London. Officials stopped short of denying all knowledge of their candidate, but said that he was out and they didn't know where he was. Given that the day was sunny and the general election was but ten days away, it seemed a safe bet that he was out canvassing.

Out in the the suburban sprawl, a red rosette was spotted and followed. It led to a tower block from which, blinking into the sunlight, came a bearded fellow in a shiny suit and comfortable shoes: Mr Efford. *The Times* introduced itself and he looked uncertain. He glanced at his canvassing team, he shifted from foot to foot, finally he shook hands. Tentatively, he opened his mouth and talked.

And talked. And talked. *Rumours of the dumb cabbie* had been exaggerated. Clive Efford could talk for Britain. A south London boy who grew up on the Old Kent Road, he became a cabbie about ten years ago after the family jewellery shop in Westminster closed — "victims of the first Tory recession". He also won a seat on Greenwich council.

He could talk about the NHS and youth unemployment until even fellow politicians flee, and come May 2 he will probably be paid to do so. Mr Efford trimmed the Tory majority to 1,666 in 1992. The man who won, Peter Bottomley, has now decamped to the safe seat of West Worthing.

Somebody, possibly the man who slammed the Labour office door hard in the face of *The Times*, has clearly told Mr Efford to play down the cabbie side of things and play the serious politician. This is a shame, for conversational skills developed on the highways should carry him into Westminster, where it is *believed he will be the first ex*-cabbie on the green benches.

His canvassing team tease him that once on a doorstep, they cannot get him away. And it is true. He tarried sometimes for 20 minutes, on one occasion with a woman who doesn't have a vote in the constituency but wanted to expound about the decline of the industrial infrastructure. "I always spend a lot of time talking to people. I can't help it. There are times when I've been left on the doorstep with people who have no intention of voting for me and probably take delight in taking up my time. But people don't want just a quick handshake and see you in five years' time."

Face to face, one to one, he is impressive. Unusually, he listens patiently to potential voters before hitting them with well-oiled patter. An elderly woman who said she can't be bothered to vote was given a gentle ticking off. "Don't let them off the hook," he scolded and won her over.

"Cab drivers come from all *walks of life. You are* always going to have a variety of opinions coming at you. Some of them I would violently disagree with," he explained.

"I very rarely preach at people in the back of the taxi. But before the last election, I used to delight in picking up the odd Tory MP and berating them. I claim credit for getting an MP to vote against the poll tax. That was a long journey." If he wins, his cab will probably be sold to his sister, one of the first women cab drivers.

"When I am in the House of Commons, there will be plenty of people I will know who won't know me, because I was sitting in the front of the taxi," he said mischievously. "I'll ask them what they were doing when I picked them up that time."

ROBIN MAYES



"I spend a lot of time talking to people. I can't help it." Clive Efford meets Damian Whitworth, left

Paddy loses the hunk vote but passes ferret test

BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY ASHDOWN, fresh from his weekend glimpse of his newborn grandson in France, was treated yesterday to a disconcerting view of politics from the next generation of voters.

During a visit to a primary school in west Cornwall, the Liberal Democrat leader was invited to look at a display put together by seven and eight-year-olds entitled "Government — what we think".

First to catch his eye was a contribution from Lucy McMahon, aged eight. "Only rich or hunky men should vote," she had written at the school in the village of Stithians. "I would only vote for rich or hunky men."

Mr Ashdown delivered a gentle rebuke to the Class 3 pupil. "What would you think if I said that only pretty girls could vote? You'd think it was rather rude, wouldn't you?"

Lucy was unabashed. Out of earshot of Mr Ashdown, she giggled wildly when a reporter asked if she thought the Liberal Democrat leader was rich and hunky. Pressed to reveal who did meet those criteria, she delivered the final, crushing blow: "Seb Coe."

Mr Coe is defending the seat of Falmouth and Camborne, which includes Stithians, for the Conservatives. He has a house in the village, which may go some way towards explaining Lucy's admiration.

Also in the display was a joint resolution from Class 3: "We think there should be more people like Rolf Harris."

Class 3 was vague about the appeal of the Australian cartoonist, singer and presenter of the television programme *Animal Hospital*. "Because he's nice" and "Because he's funny" was the limit of their analysis. Perhaps the spin-doctors should give Rolf a ring.

Outside the school, Mr Ashdown — possibly with Mr Harris's animal antics in mind — made the most of an unexpected photo-opportunity with a ferret. The creature, called Beavis, was being walked by its owner, 12-year-old Penny George, and appeared on a wall behind Mr Ashdown's left shoulder as he was being interviewed by television reporters about Europe.

Ignoring a plea by one of his aides not to pick the ferret up, Mr Ashdown scooped it from the wall. "You're a lovely little beast, aren't you?" he said. "I don't think I've ever seen such a patient and docile ferret."

Mr Ashdown may have to rethink his claim, made on Sunday, that the Tory leadership contenders were fighting like ferrets in a sack.



Ashdown found himself outstripped by the Tories' Seb Coe in the race for a schoolgirl's admiration

Tories' share of vote hovers on 32%, say polls

Bob Worcester says voters will be misled if they concentrate on Labour's lead in the polls

THE Tories' "core" vote looks to be about 32 per cent despite being sorely tested at present.

All 28 national polls since the election was called have put the Conservative share at 31 per cent, plus or minus three percentage points. The party has held at this level despite splits over Europe, an unpopular Prime Minister, awkward and misguided advertising and campaigning, low support for their positions on key issues and manoeuvring by candidates to take over from John Major even before polling day.

Since the election was called, the Tories' average share has moved up from 29 to 32 per cent, not much in itself, but enough to reduce Labour's projected overall majority by more than 100 seats. That will not affect who goes to Downing Street, but is vital to the survival of 50 Tory candidates.

The "core" vote for Labour is 28 per cent, tested nearly to destruction in the 1983 election when the party was led by Michael Foot, the most unpopular leader since the war, and fought the worst organised campaign of any party in memory. By contrast, Labour's low point in this campaign has been 45 per cent.

The total "core" vote for all other British parties, including the Liberal Democrats, is about 22 per cent. This has varied in recent elections from 22 per cent in 1992 to the 28 per cent achieved in 1983. Others, including Liberal Democrats, are averaging 19 per cent so far in this campaign.

This leaves one voter in six as being the maximum level of undecideds in this, and most, elections. It is these voters, especially those living in marginal seats, that the campaign is about.

It is to the Tories' advantage to claim that "a third of the public have yet to make up their minds", but they are kidding the public, and maybe themselves. At least half these "floating" voters will not turn out, as more than eight in ten people give pollsters their voting intention, though under two-thirds of the public (64 per cent) say they are certain to vote, the best indicator of turnout on May 1.

At the same stage of the 1992 election, about 72 per cent said they were certain to vote and final turnout was 78 per cent. On those figures, we can expect a turnout of 69 or 70 per cent on polling day. The lowest recent turnout was in 1983 was when Margaret Thatcher had her biggest victory, a landslide of the scale suggested for Labour by recent polls.

The media mislead themselves and the public by focusing on the Labour poll lead over the Tories instead of highlighting the figure that really counts, the Tory share of the vote. In 1992, the Conservatives won with a 43 per cent share. If they do not reach this level now, they lose; indeed, if they do not win as much as 39 per cent, Labour wins an overall majority.

The Liberal Democrats stand to get more seats than is implied by a statistical projection on a uniform national swing since they have become a regional party. Their "core" vote is in southern England, where 90 per cent of voters live in Conservative / Lib Dem marginals.

☐ *Robert Worcester is chairman of MORI.*

AVERAGE OF POLLS

	Number polls	Con %	Lab %	LD %	Swing since 1992
Week starting March 17	3	29	53	12	15.8
Week starting March 24	3	30	50	14	13.8
Week starting March 31	8	30	53	12	15.3
Week starting April 7	9	32	49	14	12.6
Week starting April 14	5	32	48	15	12.1
Seats projection		197	408	25	

WHO ARE YOU GOING TO VOTE FOR?

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER	6·40% GROSS P.A.	✓
BRITANNIA	6.00% GROSS P.A.	
NATIONWIDE	6.20% GROSS P.A.	
HALIFAX	5.60% GROSS P.A.	
WOOLWICH	5.40% GROSS P.A.	
ABBEY NATIONAL	5.00% GROSS P.A.	

It may be decision time, but there's really no contest.

Our new account, Platinum Plus offers outstanding interest rates.

On amounts of £2,500 or more its rates cannot be beaten by any top ten building society branch based notice account*.

So, if you're looking for a candidate which stands out from the rest, visit your local Alliance & Leicester branch today.

We are sure you'll agree that our Platinum Plus account is worthy of your vote.

For details of your nearest Alliance & Leicester branch, call 0800 412 214.

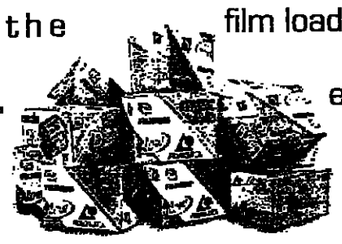
ALLIANCE LEICESTER

Terms and conditions: *Source: Blay's Guides. Correct as at 21 April 1997. Withdrawal terms and conditions vary from account to account. All interest rate comparisons are based on the inclusion of any bonuses and are for the best paying branch based UK high street notice accounts from the providers referred to. Interest rates shown are for balances of £100,000. Interest rates quoted are variable and gross. For the Platinum Plus account withdrawals are allowed after 90 days' notice, or immediately subject to 90 days' loss of interest on the amount withdrawn. Minimum opening balance £2,500. Interest paid annually or monthly on request. Different interest rates apply to monthly interest. The interest rate bonus of 0.50% gross p.a. will be payable providing no withdrawals or transfers have been made during the 12 months prior to the anniversary of the account being opened. The rate of 6.40% gross p.a. shown includes this bonus. Interest will be payable net of income tax at the rate determined by the Inland Revenue (currently 20%), or subject to the required registration gross. Additional tax will be payable if you are a higher rate tax payer. Interest is calculated daily from the day following receipt, up to and including the day before withdrawal, except for cheques where it is calculated from the fourth banking day following receipt. (Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays are not banking days). Maximum investment with Alliance & Leicester is £500,000 per individual. Full terms and conditions available on request. Alliance & Leicester plc. Registered Office: 49 Park Lane, London, W1Y 4EQ. Company No: 3263713. Registered in England. Authorised as a bank pursuant to the Banking Act 1987. Member of the British Bankers Association.

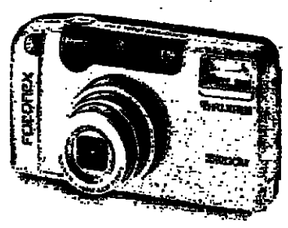


To celebrate our birthday, we're offering free film for a year.

The first birthday of the revolutionary Advanced Photo System could hardly go unnoticed. Leading the celebrations, and the market, are Fujifilm Fotonex cameras.



With the choice of three picture sizes per shot, simple 'drop in' film loading and an index print for easy viewing and re-ordering, you couldn't ask for more, until now.



We're giving away £50 worth of free film with every Fotonex zoom camera. That's one feature you'd be mad not to snap up. For more details call 0800 106 022.

FUJIFILM
SIMPLY MORE ADVANCED

ADVANCED

Available while gift pack stocks last from Dixons, Boots, Argos, Jessop, John Lewis, Tecno and Fuji Camera Centres nation-wide. Supplied as a single gift pack with 12 Fujicolor Nexia films. Contents of gift pack may vary.

Ministers turn tail in the lions' den

MICHAEL FORSYTH exchanged the electoral lions' den for a real one yesterday and was left wishing he was back in the political arena. The Scottish Secretary's attempts to portray himself as a Braveheart faltered when he was faced by a pack of cubs.

The seven-month-old animals, enlisted to pose for photographers with Mr Forsyth and William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, at Blairdrummond Safari Park, were supposed to reinforce the Scottish Conservatives' emblem of a lion rampant. But instead of sitting quietly, the cubs, described by safari workers as normally sedate, showed their claws and snarled and snapped at the nervous-looking candidates.

Mr Forsyth and Mr Hague entered the lion's enclosure in front of a pack of photographers for a morning photo session to begin a day of campaigning in the Scottish Secretary's home constituency. The cubs were brought out to pose with the two men, but as if on cue they struggled and fought with their keepers as soon as they set eyes on their new cellmates.

As Mr Forsyth and Mr Hague backed away, the cubs bared their teeth and growled. Any attempt by the men to come close was warned off with a swipe of a paw. Eventually the two men posed nervously a safe distance from the cubs, who were placated with chunks of raw meat.

CHRIS CLARK



Michael Forsyth and William Hague with the uncooperative lions yesterday

IRA tactics look like vote-loser in marginal

Nationalist disgust at renewed terrorism splits the vote between SDLP and Sinn Fein in Mid-Ulster. This can only benefit the DUP, writes **Nicholas Watt**



MODERATE nationalists are quietly turning against Sinn Fein in Mid-Ulster after the IRA's campaign of disruption in Britain. Nationalists in the marginal constituency who might have voted Sinn Fein said yesterday they would now support the SDLP's Denis Haughey, a vehement critic of the IRA.

Two pensioners chatting outside the Convent of Mercy in Cookstown, Co Tyrone, a mixed town in the heart of Mid-Ulster, said that peace was the major issue in the election. One elderly woman, who asked not to be named, said: "I will be voting for Denis because he is the serious peace candidate."

Her sentiments will irritate Martin McGuinness, the Sinn Fein candidate, who must convince nationalists that he offers the best chance of unseating the Rev William McCrea of the Democratic Unionists. Mr McGuinness aims to woo SDLP voters who who were outraged when Mr McCrea shared a platform last September with Billy Wright, the hardline loyalist.

Sinn Fein faces a tough fight because a split nationalist vote has handed Mid-Ulster to Unionists at every election since 1974 even though the electorate is 60 per cent Catholic. But yesterday's IRA disruption may not cost Mr McGuinness votes — nationalists' distaste at it may have faded by polling day.

A mother who was picking up her children from the Holy Trinity Primary School in Cookstown said that she was upset for commuters in England, but she felt that John Major could have avoided the trouble. She said: "John Major has a lot to answer for because he should have grasped the opportunity for peace. There also does seem to be a lot of fuss in London when we suffered much more serious violence in Northern Ireland."

Mr McGuinness, hopes to attract such voters by a charm offensive on the doorsteps of Mid-Ulster. The self-proclaimed former IRA man has shed his stony demeanour and is grinning his way round the constituency, casting himself in the unlikely role of a peace campaigner. Speaking at Sinn Fein's weekly election campaign press conference yesterday, Mr McGuinness said: "The people of Mid-Ulster have been quite impressed by the contribution of people like myself have made in trying to bring about a peace settlement in our country."

On housing estates of Coalisland, Co Tyrone, where Irish tricolours hang from most lamposts, next to freshly painted IRA murals, Mr McGuinness had a serious message for the voters. "This is a very important election," he said. "We see it as a new opportunity to rebuild the peace process with a new British government. It also gives us an opportunity to remove Mr McCrea."

Mr McGuinness's performance on the doorsteps cuts no ice with his two main opponents, who believe that the electorate will not be fooled. The SDLP's Denis Haughey, 52, who first contested Mid-Ulster in 1983 and who has been one of the party's main strategists in its 27-year history, is confident that he will be seen as the only nationalist capable of beating Mr McCrea.

As he canvassed on the outskirts of Coalisland, Mr Haughey said: "Anyone who votes for Martin McGuinness will be in no doubt about what they are voting for." Mr Haughey, a former teacher who is married with three children, added that thousands of SDLP supporters, who "lent" their votes to Sinn Fein in the election to the Northern Ireland Forum last May to protest against the Government's handling of the peace process, would not repeat their mistake.

He said: "Those people feel betrayed and they feel conned because of the resumption of the IRA campaign in Northern Ireland. They will not fall for Sinn Fein again."

On the other side of Mid-Ulster in his home town of Magherafelt, Mr McCrea insisted that he was quietly confident that he would retain his seat. "Many people believe that Martin McGuinness is a step too far and Sinn Fein have no policies to offer other than a 'hate McCrea' campaign," he said.

However, Mr McCrea has quietly recognised that he is facing the most serious challenge in his 14 years as an MP and has trimmed his sails accordingly. His firebrand speeches, in which he used to give apocalyptic warnings of the threat to Northern Ireland from Dublin, have been replaced by measured tones as he argues that the election will be about "bread and butter issues" such as health and education.

Mr McCrea, who lives in a heavily-fortified house with video cameras and a police guard, dismisses the row about his support for Billy Wright as a side-show which is of no interest to the electorate. "Have you been brainwashed or are you just plugged into nationalist propaganda?" Mr McCrea replied to a question about Mr Wright before moving on to discuss the "real" issues.

On the stump with the Special Branch

Michael Evans reports on the perils of going canvassing with a Conservative candidate whose outspoken views have put him on an IRA hitlist

ANDREW HUNTER, chairman of the Conservative backbench Northern Ireland Committee in the last Parliament, is followed everywhere by Special Branch officers: testament to the security threat he faces while canvassing in his Basingstoke constituency.

He has to live every day with the consequences of his interest in Ulster poltics. An IRA hitman is serving 24 years for trying to kill him three years ago.

During Mr Hunter's visit to a bungalow estate on the west side of Basingstoke, where most residents are elderly, he was followed by armed Special Branch officers, one wearing the traditional trenchcoat, and slowly moving armour-plated saloon cars.

Travelling with him in the back of his car on the way to the estate, you become aware of certain security precautions. Every Tory canvasser on this visit yesterday morning was conscious that it is the routines that can be so dangerous.

Andrew Hunter, 54, Conservative MP for Basingstoke since 1983 and now standing as Conservative candidate in a redrawn constituency, knows there is a real IRA threat to him because he has been one of the most outspoken voices on Northern Ireland affairs for many years. On the day of yet more IRA disruption, Mr Hunter did not hesitate to launch forth on his favourite political subject. "When the IRA ceasefire ended, that showed them in their true colours. I am not going to be taken for a ride ever again," he said.

His name was on a list found in December of people targeted for assassination. Three years ago, the IRA gunman was caught "as he was on his way to eliminate me", he said.

The IRA first took an interest in Mr Hunter in 1988 when he called for the return of capital punishment for terrorists convicted of murder. "The latest intelligence," he said, "is that I am still being targeted. But that will not stop me from talking about Northern Ireland. It is the subject I specialise in and my supporters here in Basingstoke understand that, although they are a little bewildered."

As we drew into the bungalow estate, Mr Hunter said quietly: "Wait a moment." Then as the Special Branch officers positioned themselves, we climbed out of the car, the heavily reinforced doors requiring a considerable push.

Mr Hunter did not mention Northern Ireland as he



Hunter: man in jail for trying to kill him

spoke to residents at their front doors. But one elderly woman made a remark that brought a smile to his face, as the police officer in the trenchcoat watched from the end of the path. She said: "I want a United Kingdom, but not the IRA."

None of the residents seemed aware that the cluster of suited men accompanying Mr Hunter were police officers rather than fellow canvassers. Their protection was embracing but not intrusive to those who opened their doors. Mr Hunter, whose majority at the 1992 election was more than 21,200, was a friend of Sir Ian Gow, the Tory MP who was murdered by the IRA in July 1990.

When Mr Hunter called for the death penalty for terrorists in an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill, his life was threatened. Armed protection was provided for several months and then removed after MI5 decided that the threat had lifted.

He expects that the present 24-hour protection will have to continue for the foreseeable future. He said he had no intention of giving up his strong public stance on the IRA, whether or not the Government was returned to power on May 2.

He added: "I did not know what I was letting myself in for. I did not realise the protection would have to be so prolonged."

His belief is that the IRA is planning to cause maximum disruption on polling day. "That is what I would do, if I was the IRA, so I am sure that is what they are working towards," he said.

After a morning of knocking on doors in the company of his armed protectors, Mr Hunter returned to the Conservative club campaign headquarters and expressed his alarm at the prospect of a Labour government making Northern Ireland policy.

He said: "The IRA believes that British governments will give concessions to violence. When I met Sinn Fein during the ceasefire, they made it clear they thought violence worked."

He added: "I do not think Sinn Fein should ever be allowed to join the peace talks because they will never be committed to ending violence. What I am afraid of is that a Labour government will allow Sinn Fein into the talks, which will give them credibility. They do not deserve to be given any credibility."

FIND OUT THE REAL COST
OF YOUR CAR BEFORE YOU BUY IT.
RING 0800 666 222 FOR OUR

DAEWOOPRICE SURVEY.

	Daewoo Nexia 1.5 GLXi 5dr	Ford Escort 1.4i LX 5dr	Vauxhall Astra 1.4i LS (Hi-Tq) 5dr	Nissan Almera 1.4 GX 5dr	Peugeot 306 1.4 XL 5dr
LIST PRICE	£11,145	£12,005	£11,995	£12,205	£11,735
Delivery and Number Plates	included	£520	£500	included	£495
12 months Road Tax	included	£145	£145	£145	£145
3 year Servicing on 36,000 miles including parts and labour	included (up to 60,000 miles)	£367.35	£301.33	£459.83	£437.51
3 years Insurance Subject to status	included	£808.50	£885.24	£808.50	£731.70
3 year Comprehensive Warranty on 60,000 miles	included	£410	£310	included	£445
3 years Total AA Cover	included	with warranty	with warranty	£119	with warranty
Electronic ABS	included	£380	£625	n/a	£550
Driver's Airbag	included	included	included	included	included
Power Steering	included	included	included	included	included
Metallic Paint	included	£240	n/a	£230	£245
Air Conditioning	included	n/a	n/a	£1,466	n/a
DAEWOOPRICE	£11,145	£14,875.85	£14,761.57	£15,433.33	£14,784.21
Vs Nexia 1.5 GLXi 5dr	—	+33%	+32%	+38%	+32%

When you buy a new car, the price you see isn't always the one you end up paying. For starters, you have to put it on the road. Then there's running costs, such as servicing and insurance. And what if you want extra specification like ABS, metallic paint and power steering? At Daewoo, we believe all these things should be standard. That's why we've produced a fact sheet which details the real cost of buying and running a wide range of competitive cars. You can get it by phoning 0800 666 222. Please note that all prices are correct at 20th March 1997. Warranties listed do not necessarily provide identical levels of cover. To obtain our figures, we collected brochures and called 3 competitor dealerships for each car. Insurance figures were supplied courtesy of an insurance intermediate, based on a 35 year-old and his spouse, living in Birmingham, with 4 years no claims discount. Daewoo's fixed prices range from £9,445 to £13,735 for the 3,4 and 5 door Nexia and Espero Saloon and with our part exchange valuation system, there's never been a better time to have your car assessed.
The real cost of motoring? That'll be the Daewoo.

DAEWOO



12 FLIGHTS A WEEK FROM GATWICK – MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.
EFFECTIVE FROM MAY 1ST
Subject to availability. Excludes taxes. Subject to Government approval

Contact your local travel agent or book direct by calling
0345 46 47 48
AIRLINES

WEEKEND PACKAGES AVAILABLE FROM £139. CALL 0181 251 0973. ATOL 4503

Study casts doubt on advantages of grammar schools

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND JILL SHERMAN

NEW research cast doubt on Conservative claims yesterday that John Major's plans for a grammar school in every town would improve standards in comprehensive schools.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, quoted a study showing the benefits for children in neighbouring comprehensives. But critics argued that the study of schools in south Birmingham and Salisbury was too small to be conclusive, while wider research by *The Times* suggested that the impact of selection was uneven.

The Department for Education and Employment's survey of 20 schools' results showed that the proportion of 16-year-olds gaining five or more higher-grade GCSEs rose by more than twice the national average. But a comparison of results in five selective authorities showed that comprehensive schools' pass rates had fallen in two of the boroughs in the year that the survey was conducted.

In Kent and Lincolnshire, two of the counties with the largest number of grammar schools, the improvement in pass rates in non-selective schools was comparable with the department's figures, as it was in the London borough of Kingston. But in Trafford, Greater Manchester, and Redbridge, northeast London, the proportion of pupils with five higher-grade GCSEs fell in 1995. Both boroughs improved last summer.

Mr Major will rely on parent power to fulfil his grammar school ambitions, clearing the way for petitions to trigger a move to selection. Although all state schools would receive an extra £300 per pupil as they gained full control of their budgets, there would be no extra incentives to become a grammar school.

Mr Major vowed that wherever parents wanted grammar schools, "doctrinaire Labour councils won't be able to stand in the way". Formal ballots would not be needed, although the school governors would have to show the Education Secretary that there was a broad consensus in favour of selection.

Mrs Shephard said a recent opinion poll showed that four out of five parents favoured selection, as she announced plans to establish a Grammar Schools Trust to help schools convert to grammar status.

But Labour claimed that in comparable areas, comprehensive systems were performing at least as well as those with grammar schools. The party quoted Hampshire's lead over selective Kent and Essex as an example.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said Conservative plans would lead to secondary modern schools for between 80 and 90 per cent of children. "The vast majority of children will be left with a second-class education."

Peter Miller, president of the Secondary Heads Association, said the scheme would not address the main failing of British education, which involved those at the bottom of the ability range. "How would selection for the top 20 per cent to 30 per cent help those children?"

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the result would a "gross waste of resources" with oversubscribed selective schools while less popular schools had a surplus of places. "The decision to give parents the right to decide on the rate of grammar school expansion panders to the self-interest of the minority at the expense of the real needs of the majority."

Margaret Dewar, who chairs the National Grammar Schools' Association, welcomed the move, arguing that there was a real demand for more grammar school places. But she expressed disappointment that there would be no extra funding for schools that converted to grammar schools in the way that money was made available to specialist technology and modern language schools.

MICHAEL POWELL



Gillian Shephard, third from left, talking to A-level pupils in Darlington yesterday

Model of peaceful co-existence that delivers results

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

REDBRIDGE, in northeast London, could be the model for a future Conservative school system. Its two table-topping grammar schools co-exist with successful comprehensives and specialist technology colleges.

The borough, which covers large council estates as well as middle-class suburbs, was eighth in last year's local authority rankings for secondary schools.

Labour has been in control for more than a year, but there has been no attempt to abolish the 11-plus, which has survived from pre-comprehensive days. Two thirds of children in the borough take the examination, but fewer than one in ten win a place at Woodford County High School for Girls or Ilford County High School for Boys.

With children from neighbouring authorities also eligible for grammar school places, more than 2,000 ten-year-olds compete for places at the two schools each October. Children have to show signed photographs as proof of identity when they sit the examination. The process keeps a thriving network of private tutors in business and also swells the numbers in local preparatory schools. Redbridge's own primary schools are forbidden to coach candidates for the 11-plus.

The local authority has always insisted that its remaining secondary schools are comprehensives, not secondary moderns. Most boasted GCSE results better than the national average last year, although head teachers say they would have done better still with the full ability range. Their schools are "creamed" by three successful independent schools as well as the grammar schools.

When, in the early 1980s, Redbridge parents were consulted on a proposal to double the number of grammar schools they rejected the scheme decisively, opting instead for a fully comprehensive system. The existing grammar schools survived, however, and enjoy considerable local support.

Anxious wait for local council poll outcome

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GRAMMAR schools in Kent are awaiting the result of local elections on May 1 with as much trepidation as the national poll.

Kent retains 40 grammar schools, the highest number of any local authority, and claims to be running the fairest selective system. The large number of grammars means they take the top 25 per cent of children, compared to the more elitist 10 or 5 per cent in areas with only a handful of selective schools.

Grammar head teachers in Kent believe that a strong Labour or Liberal Democrat performance in the 99-seat county council election will put the current system at risk. The two parties gained control in 1989 as a joint administration but the Conservatives still hold 41 seats.

The authority still runs the 11-plus tests in English and mathematics which are used to select children every January. The Kent test is "opt-in" and half of its 11-year-olds take it. The council also meets the cost of sending children on buses to distant grammar schools, unlike Essex County Council, which scrapped transport grants when the Conservatives lost control.

Kent's secondary moderns prefer to be known as wide-ability schools. A number have opted out and re-styled themselves as comprehensives which specialise in arts, sports or music, selecting 10 per cent of children for their aptitude in these areas.

Advertisement

I.Q. of 145 and Can't Remember?

A SIMPLE technique for acquiring a powerful memory has just been announced. It can pay you real dividends in both business and social advancement. It works like magic to give you added poise, self-confidence and greater popularity.

Many people do not realise how much they can influence others simply by remembering *accurately everything* they see, hear or read.

For example you can learn names, faces, facts, figures and foreign languages faster than you ever thought possible. Whole books and plays can be indelibly imprinted on your memory after a single reading. You could be more successful in your studies and examinations. At parties and dinners you may never again be at a loss for appropriate words or entertaining stories. In fact, you could be more poised and *self-confident* in everything you say and do.



Forget facts, figures?

Full details of this easy-to-follow method for developing a *powerful memory* have been printed in a fascinating booklet, "Adventures in Memory", sent free on request. Just fill in and return the coupon below (no need even to stamp your envelope). Or send your name and address to: Memory and Concentration Studies (Dept TSM07.), FREEPOST 198, Manchester, M60 3DL.

WHAT THIS FREE BOOK WILL SHOW YOU

- How to remember names, faces, facts, and figures!
- How to earn more — get a better job!
- How to learn faster!
- How to concentrate and overcome absent-mindedness!
- How to increase your personal efficiency!
- How to speak fluently without notes!
- How to succeed in examinations!

To: Memory & Concentration Studies (Dept. TSM07), FREEPOST 198, Manchester, M60 3DL.
Please send me your free Memory Book.

NAME _____
Mr/Mrs/Miss
ADDRESS _____

_____ Postcode _____
No stamp needed in U.K.

Mayday! Mayday! It's too late.

OFFER ENDS 30TH APRIL

Was ~~£1,795~~ +VAT (Jan.'97)
(~~£2,109~~)



Compaq Deskpro 2000 5200 M1620
Intel Pentium® processor 200MHz, 32MB memory, 256KB cache
1.6GB S.M.A.R.T. hard drive with Fault Management
Microsoft® Windows 95 or Windows 3.1 pre-installed
Compaq 140 14" SVGA monitor
Compaq AssetControl via Insight Manager, Comprehensive system security.

Until the end of April our special promotion prices mean you will pay even less for any Deskpro 2000 with a Compaq 140 or V50 monitor. This means if you're a growing business your budgets will now stretch to faster processors and larger hard drives. Not to mention even lower long term costs of PC ownership.

All this comes from the number one brand in the world for desktop PCs.* To take advantage of this offer contact your reseller or for promotion details send off the coupon or call us between 8.30am and 8pm (9am–5pm at weekends).

intel inside pentium® PROCESSOR

SPP133
Mr/Mrs/Ms (Initials) _____ Surname _____
Title _____
Company _____
Address _____
_____
Postcode _____ Telephone _____
Are your PCs networked? _____ No. of employees at your place of work _____
We'd like to advise you of future products and offers. If you do not wish to receive them, tick here. ☐ Send to Compaq Computer Limited, FREEPOST, PO Box 21, 47 Aylesbury Road, Thame, Oxon OX9 3BR.

OFFER ENDS 30TH APRIL **Tel: 0990 50 00 20**

COMPAQ COSTS YOU LESS THAN CHEAPER COMPUTERS

COMPAQ

Offer closes 30.4.97. Offer valid while stocks last at participating resellers. Prices quoted are Compaq recommended prices. Actual savings may vary. Photograph shows 15" monitor; price quoted refers to specification description only.
The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. *Source: Market Research Agency International Data Corporation.

Blair pledges to stand firm against Euro superstate

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR yesterday gave a veiled warning to Britain's continental partners not to expect automatic agreement from a Labour government over further changes to the European Union.

In a strongly Eurosceptic speech to foreign ambassadors in Manchester, the Labour leader declared himself a British patriot and said that he would not hesitate to stop any plans for a European superstate. He cautioned Europe's political elites against forcing change without democratic support.

Mr Blair said that only Labour could restore Britain's role as a leading nation in the world. He spelt out his party's approach to foreign policy and in particular his plans for negotiations on the future of the European Union in Amsterdam.

Unlike the Tories, said Mr Blair, Labour would seek to lead in Europe. But there was not a Gadarene rush towards a European superstate. "There is a good deal of unease at the pace and direction of integration in many continental countries, not just Britain," he said. "And if there is a desire for a superstate, we would not hesitate to stop it. We want a Europe where national identities are not submerged and where countries co-operate together, not a giant and unmanageable European superstate run from the centre."

While maintaining his wait and see policy on a European single currency, Mr Blair said that Labour would "have no truck" with a fudged monetary union. He added: "Too often in the past, European elites have forced their people to proceed at a pace they are not comfortable with.

"This is not only wrong but it is also counterproductive to our democratic system. Europe can only go forward if it goes at a pace and in the direction that its peoples want. It is far more important that Europe proceed successfully than that it try to rush ahead and fail."

In key passage where he moved away from his prepared text, Mr Blair rejected what he called the narrow isolationism of the Tories and said that Labour would restore Britain's confidence as a nation in the world.

"I am a British patriot," he told his audience. "I am proud of being a British patriot. I love my country. I will always put the interests of my country first. But the Britain of my vision is not a Britain turning its back on the world — narrow, shy, uncertain. It is a Britain that is confident of its place in the world, sure of its ability to engage with the world and provide leadership in the world."

It had been Britain's destiny to lead nations in past centuries. "That should not be a destiny that is part of our past, but part of our future." He added: "Britain can still be a great country. If on May 1 we are elected for government, we shall show what true British patriotism is about and give Britain a new lease of life."

Mr Blair said that Labour would demand immediate action from Britain's European partners on five priorities at Amersterdam in June. The party would demand the completion of the single market by the end of the British EU presidency in June 1998; progress towards enlargement of the EU to the east; reform of the common agricultural policy; moves to tackle unemployment and to boost flexible labour markets; and greater commitment to foreign policy cooperation after the failures of European diplomacy in the former Yugoslavia.

Mr Blair accused John Major of "brazen effrontery" for claiming that only he could negotiate successfully for Britain's interests. Tory divisions on Europe were "gravely damaging" Britain and the Prime Minister's record was one of "abject failure".



Tony Blair takes the lead in a computer soccer game against an employee of Ocean Graphics yesterday

Clarke backs out of TV interview

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE pulled out of a television interview last night after an argument with the BBC over plans to question him about Europe.

The Chancellor was due to face Jeremy Paxman on *Newsnight* in a live interview about the economy but cancelled his appearance only four hours before the broadcast. His advisers argued with BBC executives after claiming that they had changed the focus of the planned interview to Europe. The decision came the day after Mr Clarke clashed with Eurosceptics when he dismissed the "paranoid nonsense" he said they were voicing.

After several increasingly irate calls between the BBC and senior Tories, Mr Clarke decided against travelling from Nottingham to London for the interview. Senior Tories accused the BBC of "unacceptable" behaviour in trying to change the terms of the interview, which was arranged in February.

Last night a Tory spokesman said that a series of interviews had been arranged with Cabinet ministers and the subject for discussion was not changed at the last minute in other cases. "The BBC changed the terms very late in the day and that is not acceptable. We have agreed subjects for interview with all the main broadcasters several months ago and we expect them to stick to that. We have already granted *Newsnight* an interview with Malcolm Rifkind and the issue of Europe was discussed at length.

"There is no question of the Chancellor backing away from debate on Europe. As far as we are concerned, the Prime Minister has said all there is to be said on Europe."

Both parties are guilty of blurring the choices for Britain



PETER RIDDELL

Jacques Santer is, of course, right. He did not refer explicitly to Britain in his criticisms of the flaws in the sceptics' case, but he was obviously referring to the distorted election debate over Europe. However, it is not just the Tories' fault. Labour is also guilty of blurring the choices facing Britain.

The debate has been mainly conducted in macho language. John Major claims that only he has the hard-won experience to deal with the wily continentals over their infernal ideas for closer integration. Tony Blair is inexperienced and would be pushed around by the big boys of Europe.

By contrast, Mr Blair argued yesterday in his big foreign policy speech that the "real issue is one of leadership and clarity". He fairly points to the fiasco of Britain's handling of the European ban on beef, though conveniently forgetting that Labour mistakenly supported last May's decision to obstruct European Union business. Given "the fundamental differences in party management, attitude and leaderhip", a new Labour government could give "Britain the fresh start it needs in Europe". Of course, Mr Blair initially would have a freer hand to negotiate and he would sound more positive about the EU than Mr Major.

Mr Blair's approach is long on good intentions but evades the main issues that a new Prime Minister will have to address. Mr Blair said his first aim was the completion of the single market, but it already is for the Tories. Second, he emphasised the importance of enlargement to the East. Quite right, but that will inescapably involve much larger institutional changes to the EU than he discussed. It is much more than a matter of considering the extension of qualified majority voting to a few areas (such as environmental and regional policy) or re-weighting the voting system.

His third priority of reform of the common agricultural policy has been pursued by every British Government since the mid-1970s with some, rather limited, success. His fourth aim, of tackling unemployment and promoting flexibile labour markets, is, in part, an act of faith on a change of attitudes in Europe. His fifth goal of making foreign policy co-operation real is an existing British commitment.

But much trickier issues will have to be faced in Amsterdam as set out in the Dutch presidency paper: whether to make defence an EU responsibility; expanding the role of the EU into asylum and immigration policy and within the remit of the European Court of Justice; and extending the concept of European citizenship. On most of these, Mr Blair was silent yesterday. In the past, Labour has opposed most such proposals, risking disagreement rather than a "fresh start" in Amsterdam. That is leaving aside a single currency where Mr Blair has virtually ruled out British participation in any first wave.

Far from putting "his foot on the accelerator to a federal Europe", as Mr Major claimed last night, Mr Blair would not put Britain in the inner core of closer integration, or at "the heart of Europe". The difference between the parties might be more of tone and tactics than of strategy, though that in itself would be welcome for Mr Santer and the rest of the EU.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SNP to get network TV broadcasts

The Scottish National Party has won the right to have its party election broadcasts shown on network television for the first time. Sir Robin Biggam, chairman of the Independent Television Commission, has ruled that Channel 4 and Channel 5 must transmit two SNP broadcasts on April 25 and 28.

The two channels last week refused to carry an SNP broadcast on the ground that they could not agree to broadcasts with separate content on different sides of the border. The ruling means that viewers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will see the broadcast even though they cannot vote for SNP candidates. BBC and ITV broadcast SNP programmes only on BBC Scotland and the ITV Scottish regional stations. SNP chiefs also demanded more television coverage of their election campaign.

Today's election timetable

Conservatives: Michael Howard, Roger Freeman in the Midlands; Kenneth Clarke in the South East; Virginia Bottomley in Wales; Ian Lang in the North East; Brian Mawhinney in the East; Sir George Young in the South West; Peter Lilley in London.

Labour: Tessa Jowell, Glenda Jackson in the South East; Frank Dobson, Andrew Smith in the Midlands, Mo Mowlam in Wales; Robin Cook in the North; Harriet Harman in the Midlands.

Liberal Democrats: Emma Nicholson, Charles Kennedy in London; Paddy Ashdown in the Isle of Wight, David Steel in Wales.

On screen:
Tory election broadcast: ITV 6.55pm, C5 7.55pm, BBC1 9.50pm, BBC2 10.30pm, C4 10pm

Liberal Party election broadcast: C5 5.25pm, BBC1 6.55pm, ITV 10.30pm, BBC2 11.30pm, C4 midnight.

On the Internet

The complete *Times* election coverage can be accessed via the Internet edition (site address: http://www.the-times.co.uk) where a special section has links to all the major stories and leading articles published so far. There are also further details of our MORI polls plus a collection of links to political parties and other reference sources.

MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS
A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY
FreeCall
0500 500 366

-20%

WHEN YOU ADD MERCURY SMARTCALL.

Simply add Mercury SmartCall to your home phone. Then subtract 20 – 30% off BT's basic rates for every international call of five minutes or longer that you make between 6pm and 8am weekdays, and any time at weekends.

You keep your phone, your number and your BT line. You simply pay a quarterly fee of £5.75 (inc. VAT), then choose which calls to make over Mercury and which to make over BT.

For example, use SmartCall for a five minute economy or weekend call to France or Germany and you'll save 26% against BT's basic rate. You can also make savings on calls you make to mobile phones.

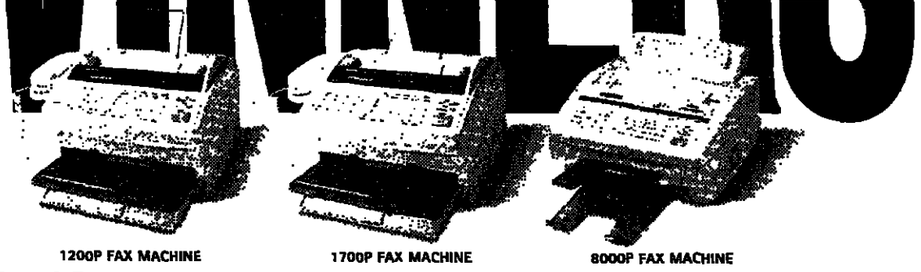
In addition, you will get another 5% off the five national or international numbers you've spent most on that quarter. So why not multiply your options? To get the figures for your home phone bill,

FreeCall 0500 500 366
quoting ref. RSTIMSD

Mercury SmartCall.
You don't have to be a genius to see how much you'll save.

Rates and terms correct at 2nd April 1997. Compared against BT's basic rate for international calls of five minutes or more, 6pm – 8am weekdays and any time at weekends. All calls subject to a 3.5p connection fee (inc. VAT). Call comparisons include VAT. https://www.mercury.co.uk

WINNERS



1200P FAX MACHINE
1700P FAX MACHINE
8000P FAX MACHINE

1200P, 1700P, 8000P: Three plain paper faxes that have produced some singularly impressive results. Not only the high quality laser prints they output, but also the awards they have won.

And when you see what they have to offer, it will come as no surprise that they have done so well.

The FAX-1200P is currently the best selling plain paper fax in the U.K., uses A4 plain paper and has a fixed cost per copy.

The FAX-1700P, besides boasting the same product features as above, also offers a very impressive built-in digital answering machine and a 14,400bps modem.

And the FAX-8000P has everything that the larger office could wish for: feature-rich, high quality laser output, fast transmission times, low reception costs and PC connectivity option.

All of which is only a small sample of what made them winners.

If you'd like to see more evidence of what Brother fax machines have to offer, call the number shown, and whichever one you choose, you can be sure that you're onto a winner.

FAX-1200P
- 9,600 bps modem
- 15 second transmission speed*
- 10 page memory*
- 200 sheet A4 paper cassette
- 70 speed dial buttons
- Fixed cost per copy

FAX-1700P
- Fast 14,400 bps modem
- 9 second transmission speed*
- Built-in digital answering machine
- 50 page memory*
- 200 sheet A4 paper cassette
- Message paging
- 130 speed dial buttons

FAX-8000P
- Laser print quality
- Fast 14,400 bps modem
- 6 second transmission speed*
- 30 page memory*
- 40 page out of paper reception memory
- 200 sheet A4 paper supply
- 40 one-touch dial buttons
- 100 speed dial buttons

1200P
Best Fax in leading consumer affairs report

1700P
What to Buy for Business 'Best Buy'

8000P
Highly Recommended Business Equipment Users Association

CALL THIS NUMBER QUOTING REF: TM046
0345 535 100

brother®
More than just features

Brother U.K. Ltd., Audenshaw, Manchester M34 5JD.
Brother International Corporation, Nagoya, Japan.
sales@buk.brother.co.uk http://www.brother.com
*Based on Brother Test Chart No 1

Matthew Parris trails Ian Lang into a watercolour wilderness of mountain and forest

Out of reach in a pastel world of his own

AS LARGE areas of London were paralysed yesterday, a man counted among John Major's most senior Cabinet ministers and closest allies was 400 miles from the capital. Alone at the wheel of a Ford Mondeo, his mobile phone out of range, his pager not responding and driving at whim among the hills and lochs of Scotland, with the rain gently falling, this was a man whom nobody — not the Prime Minister, not even his agent — could have contacted.

Had it been necessary to assemble the Cabinet, its meeting would have begun without the Rt Hon Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade but, far more importantly, Conservative parliamentary candidate for Galloway and Upper Nithsdale.

This is a largely undiscovered region. Tucked away at the bottom left-hand corner of Scotland, Galloway is watercolour country: a land of wide skies, open waters, pastel colours and low, gentle mountains. Long after the election clamour has died away, I shall remember the dark green streaks of Scots pine among the yellow-lime of larchwood coming into leaf.

It could be Mr Lang's departing memory, too. "We nearly got him last time," Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish National Party, said to me, "but he snuck away." The minister's majority over the SNP stands at a little over 2,000.

Lang is more hopeful than his rival, though one suspects he simply does not know whether he can make it. I found him in the pretty village of New Abbey, in whose Sweetheart Abbey's ruins the heart of Robert the Bruce is buried. The SNP has learnt from Robert the Bruce what Robert learnt from the spider: try, try and try again.

I followed Mr Lang and his Barbour jacket into the Criffel Inn. Lang introduced himself to a solitary couple. A thoughtful, decent and suavely Macmillanite man, Lang is no glad-hander, but he popped dutifully into the sub-post office to be grumbled at by the proprietor. The man in charge of British industry listened, rapt, to the details of this tiny shop's income and expenditure. He had cancelled an interview with *The World at One* to keep up with his village canvass.

He plans next to press on, unaccompanied, to his three-room constituency office in Castle Douglas, where his pleasant, elderly agent, Ian Mackie (who tends to leave his mobile phone off, seared by the experienced of its once ringing while he was carrying a coffin at a funeral), runs the show.

This is a long way from Millbank Tower. I report it not to mock, but to marvel at the way in which — like death — a small majority and an impending general election humble the mighty. All the trappings of Mr Lang's great office avail him nothing now. Casting them aside, he must drive through the rain alone, pleading with his electorate one by one — and praying.


MIKE WILKINSON

Ian Lang takes a quick breather in the Criffel Inn yesterday during a tour of his constituency of Galloway and Upper Nithsdale

Forty miles away, I encountered a contrast. In the village of Sanquhar, a part-industrial, truck-stop kind of place, Mr Salmond was swooping in to support Lang's challenger, Alisdair Morgan. I accompanied both round an aluminium extrusion plant. Salmond's progress was tribal-triumphal. A convoy of seven supporting cars, bedecked in the party's acid yellow-green colours and dispensing nationalism and rock-candy, blared folksy music and confident slogans through a loudspeaker. Bright-eyed and jaunty, Salmond bounced through the factory, pumping hands, dismissing Tory chances, sneering at Labour and looking forward, his relish evident, to a Scottish parliament.

After the visit to the factory, which is losing 40 jobs to England, Salmond planned a "jump and shout" in Sanquhar. "I jump out of the car and shout for five minutes." This party is spoiling for a fight.

Howard backs the rebels on right to dissent

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

MICHAEL Howard yesterday backed the right of Tory candidates to display their opposition to the Government's negotiate-and-decide policy on the single currency.

In a move that will inevitably be seen as enhancing his leadership credentials, the Home Secretary also said there was nothing wrong in candidates accepting money from the Yorkshire businessman, Paul Sykes, to help them in their campaign.

Mr Howard spoke as Conservative party headquarters moved to dismiss all talk of a leadership contest, stating that the only election that mattered was the general election next week. But with Labour still holding a commanding poll lead, senior ministers have given further private indications of a co-ordinated move to persuade John Major to stay on, possibly until the autumn, if he loses office.

The ministers want both to nip an expected early challenge from John Redwood in the bud and to give Conservative MPs, including a large number of parliamentary newcomers, time to judge the possible contenders for the succession. The loyalist ministers also want to block any attempt by the Right to seize control of the executive of the 1922 committee of Tory MPs — enabling it to have a big say on the timing of the leadership election.

Mr Major's close colleagues believe that he will be amenable to an appeal to stay on while an orderly contest is organised. But they have serious doubts over whether he would want to soldier on until the autumn if he has been heavily defeated.

Mr Howard, who along with Michael Portillo, John Redwood and William Hague, would be vying for the votes of the Right in a leadership battle, pointedly did not deny on BBC's *Election Call* that some Tory politicians were already fighting a leadership election. He said: "I am not able to comment for others. My own intention is to win the general election."

Home Secretary says party should give itself enough rope

Peter Barnard thanks Michael Howard for enabling him to speculate about the possibilities of some future Conservative government and its sponsored capital punishment policy

Repetitive Statement Injury is one of the hazards of any election campaign. This affliction causes a dull ache in areas of the brain that absorb information and the more policy parroting one is subject to, the more likely one is to suffer RSI. The only antidote is a bizarre or unexpected statement by a politician.

Therefore I am indebted to Michael Howard, who offered some temporary relief yesterday by raising the spectre of a future Conservative administration introducing the ultimate privatisation, namely privatisation of policy. This, surely, is the boldest initiative offered so far in the campaign.

The Home Secretary appeared on *Election Call* (BBC1 and Radio 4) and was asked a seemingly innocuous question by Raymond Pitt, of Gloucester, who wanted to know if Mr Howard agreed with Tory candidates taking money from Paul Sykes, the Yorkshire millionaire, if they were implacably opposed to a single currency.

Nothing wrong with that, Mr Howard said, provided the candidates believed in the policy. Peter Sissons, the presenter, then asked: "Where are we to draw the line? What if a millionaire wanted to finance MPs who wanted to come out for capital punishment?"

On all public occasions, Mr Howard has woven into his facial features a light smile designed to announce him as a reasonable man saying reasonable things with which no reasonable person could disagree. As with most trained lawyers, Mr Howard QC speaks as if inviting a jury to come to a verdict with which only a lunatic or a half-wit could possibly disagree.



His reply to Sissons was a model of the genre: "If someone does believe in capital punishment and some wealthy supporter of capital punishment wanted to support them, that is perfectly legitimate."

The programme moved on, but my mind did not. It raced ahead to a scenario in which a routed Conservative Party re-forms around a rightwing leader, possibly even Mr Howard. Five years hence, Tory candidates up and down the country, financed by millionaires in the rope and trapdoor industries, pledge themselves to the return of hanging.

And the Tories would have at their disposal far more glamorous sponsors than Mr Sykes. Imagine the election broadcast that Michael Winner, that ebullient opponent of liberal law-and-order thinkers, could make with limitless cash and several cameras: *Death Wish 19*, the first party election broadcast to make a profit on general release.

Not that famous names were absent yesterday. Carla Lane, the television writer, rang to say she had proof of law-breaking over the live export of animals but that the authorities were refusing to act.

The Home Secretary, whose opponents regard him as the past master of defining the difference between responsibility and blame, was regretfully unable to help. These were matters for the police and the Crown Prosecution Service. He was hanged if it was anything to do with him.

To end up with a
decent pension
WHERE SHOULD YOU
start?

HERE You could set up a Legal & General Pension Plan in no time at all. A simple, no-obligation call is all it takes.

- *Start from £50 a month*
- *2-year satisfaction guarantee*
- *Low charges increase your pension's potential*
- *Portable from job to job*
- *Flexible contributions*
- *Payment holidays†*

Legal & General
THE WAY TO PROSPER

Please send me a personal illustration and information pack on the Legal & General Personal Pension Plan.
Title: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other) _____ Forename: _____
Surname: _____
Address: _____
_____ Postcode: _____
Are you: Self-employed ☐ Employed ☐ Unemployed ☐
I am/am not currently in an employer's pension scheme.
Planned retirement age (50 to 75): _____ Date of birth: / /
Initial contribution (Gross): £_____ per month (min. £50)
£_____ per annum (min. £500) £_____ single (min. £2,000).
Please post to: Legal & General Pensions Plan, FREEPOST (SWC1006), Cardiff CF1 1YW.
Further information on Legal & General products is available on our website http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk
Delete as appropriate

Take the first steps to starting your pension now
0500 65 65 65
Lines open 9am – 8pm Mon–Fri, 9am – 5pm Sat
Call now, quoting reference B10/DL01
or talk to your financial adviser

†Subject to Legal & General's agreement. Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please contact us. Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. Full written details of terms and conditions are available on request. Legal & General Direct Limited Registered in England No. 2702080. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP.

1997 'Top Direct Lender Over Two Years' – What Mortgage Magazine.

Moving house?
Call Direct Line for a cheaper mortgage.
Not moving house? Ditto.

*Mortgage example of £80,000 repayable over 25 years (300 monthly payments).

Lender	APR (Variable)	Monthly Repayments (after tax relief)	Monthly saving with Direct Line	Total Payable
WOOLWICH	7.8%	£560.69	£52.47	£176,130
HALIFAX	7.8%	£557.83	£49.61	£174,156
ABBEY NATIONAL	7.6%	£557.34	£49.12	£175,799
DIRECT LINE	6.5%	£508.22	–	£158,805

APRs based on Standard Variable Rate Repayment mortgages, correct at 14th April 1997. Source: Moneyfacts. MIRAS has been calculated under current tax legislation which may alter.

- It doesn't matter whether you're moving house or not, you can still move your mortgage to Direct Line.
- It could save you around £50* a month.
- You can borrow up to 90% of the value of your home.
- There's a free valuation.
- No early redemption, arrangement or mortgage indemnity fees.
- Direct line guarantees to save you 20%† on your existing buildings insurance.
- If you transfer your mortgage without moving house Direct Line will pay your legal fees††.
- Call now, we're waiting to beat the banks and building societies.

DIRECT LINE MORTGAGES

0181 649 9099 LONDON
0161 831 9099 MANCHESTER
0141 221 9099 GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. TT65
www.directline.co.uk
A Royal Bank of Scotland company.

Mortgages provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 259 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SH. Direct Line mortgages from £20,000 to £100,000 are available for up to 90% of the property valuation or purchase price, whichever is the lower. Applicants must be aged 18 to 82 and Direct Line Financial Services Limited reserves the right to decline any application. Life assurance to cover the amount of the loan and security in the form of a first legal charge (Standard Security – Scotland) over the property will be required. The property must be fully insured for the duration of the loan. All rates quoted are for standard variable rate mortgages. The standard valuation fee will be refunded to the borrower once the mortgage is put up (for the example quoted the fee would be £110). ††Direct Line will pay your legal fees, provided you complete the transfer of your mortgage on your existing home using our solicitors package. If you decide to use your own solicitor to carry out the work involved in the transfer of your mortgage and the fees amount to more than £200, Direct Line will pay the difference up to a maximum of £200. This is a limited offer and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Written quotations are available on request. Some mortgages may require payment of a fee to the existing lender when being transferred. †The guaranteed insurance saving only applies if your current insurance is arranged by your lender and is subject to our normal underwriting criteria and corresponding levels of cover. For your added security telephone calls may be recorded and the recording kept secure.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Direct Line and the red telephone are whether for the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with its permission.

Labour and Tories are united by indecision

ON THE surface, the past week's campaign drama revolved around Europe. In truth, the reality of what happens in the EU was marginal to soundbite strife over political leadership and party discipline.

When John Major appealed over the heads of his squabbling candidates and ministers to voters not to bind his hands, he was making a final effort to sound like a leader. His speech laid out no strategy for resolving Britain's dilemma over the single currency, which the Prime Minister rightly described as the most momentous issue to face any British government in the second half of this century. The main parties' identically obdurate stances over EU fish quotas contain no prescription for achieving Britain's objective.

Evasion characterises most British debate over Europe. Few politicians can muster the self-confidence to admit that the governance of late 20th-century Britain has been profoundly influenced by the decision of France and Germany, backed by the United States and most of Germany's neighbours, to develop supranational government in Europe.

But the EU finds itself at a crossroads. Its system is a higgledy-piggledy hybrid, combining purely federal elements, such as the European Court of Justice, with less integrated decision-making in which national governments retain their right of veto. Since the Single European Act of 1986 and the fall of the Berlin Wall, ordinary voters have expressed increasingly open doubts about the ultimate target of uniting Europe and about the means being used to achieve that end. Undaunted, the architects of the Maastricht treaty set an apparently irreversible timetable for the launch of a single currency by at least some of the EU's states in January 1999.

If the euro is born on schedule, the currency's success or failure will shape British politics for a generation. History provides no example of a multilateral monetary union that has survived without a matching political union. The states that fuse their currencies will have to find a more effective system than the present one to keep governments in step with each other. The potential of the single currency to tighten the political unity of Europe is therefore immense. But since not all EU states can qualify to join, the power of monetary union to divide is also enormous.

BALLOT '97
THE TIMES guide to election issues

THE POLITICS

Yet Britain's political class maintains an eerie silence on the issue of principle. All three parties are committed to referendums in the event that a Cabinet recommends joining. Neither main party will ask, let alone answer, the basic question: is the redistribution of power involved in currency union right or wrong?

Tory ministers, with the sole and notable exception of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, convey the unambiguous impression that a Tory Cabinet would not join the first wave of states in 1999, but that membership has never been ruled out. Shadow ministers have kept their options open, but the underlying trend in Labour policy has been gradually to assure voters that a Blair government will make no sudden leap to join the single currency. That impression was hardened by the Labour manifesto's carefully toned remark that "formidable obstacles" stand in the way of Britain joining the first wave of countries adopting the euro. Robin Cook went furthest when he said early in the campaign that the decision is unlikely in the next Parliament.

Debate over the euro has overshadowed the torpid Brussels talks to revise the Maastricht treaty. The government elected on May 1 will have six weeks before the revision is due to be completed.

Labour says that it would consider majority voting decisions on "certain areas" of social, industrial, regional and environment policy. But these exclude taxation — Labour is therefore not committed to ending the deadlock over an EU-wide carbon energy tax — and are conditional on the voting system being reformed to give greater weight to large states such as Britain, France and Germany. Labour's most distinctive promise remains its pledge to take Britain into the social chapter.

What unites Britain's two main parties on Europe remains more important than what divides them. Both believe that nation states remain the focus of people's loyalties and the basic building blocks of the system. Both are undecided about the single currency. Both are opposed to altering the treaty so as to make the formation of a "hard core" inside the EU easier. Both have little time for the idea that the EU should become a single global power in foreign policy and defence. Both would like to shift the EU's priorities away from the Franco-German agenda. In the end this convergence will matter more than the disagreements.

Reality has failed to match the rhetoric

THE RECORD

IN THE 18 years since the Conservatives were elected, Western Europe's political classes have grown used to poking their noses into their neighbours' business. A technocratic elite now links Brussels with other capitals in the European Union, and it is commonplace for bankers, civil servants and MPs across the Union to follow in detail the ups and downs of Helmut Kohl's plan to reform German pensions or the fate of Romano Prodi's "euro-tax" in Italy.

British politicians have been poor at networking on the Continent. Ministers in the Foreign Office who speak a second European language are the exception — let alone ministers at other departments. The adversarial habits of the House of Commons breed indifference to the coalition-building culture of continental politics.

Linked to partners whose long-term aim of European political and economic unification they did not share, British governments have long sought ways of avoiding the issue of Europe's destination.

In the early and mid-1980s, that elusive overlap of interests was found. Margaret Thatcher fought pitched battles over the British contribution to the Brussels budget which allowed her to claim victory in her campaign to "get my money back". But Mrs Thatcher was lulled into a sense of false security. By the mid-1980s, Chancellor Kohl of Germany and François Mitterrand in France were quietly cementing a partnership determined to set Western Europe's agenda. Britain raised no objection to the appointment of an earnest French technocrat called Jacques Delors as President of the European Commission.

Britain's businessmen were enthusiastic about M Delors' first big idea — bringing down the remaining barriers to an open market across 12 economies. Many businesses grew steadily more dependent on trade and cross-border investment in the European market, creating a commercial constituency now split about the merits of the single currency but united in fear of British disengagement from the EU.

The lukewarm attitude of business and wider public opinion towards monetary union can be traced back to the trauma of Britain's membership of the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) between 1990 and 1992. The Bundesbank privately warned John Major, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, that sterling was entering the system at an unsustainably high rate, and was proved right. Sterling's ejection from the ERM, in September 1992, was also triggered by men from the Bundesbank. British ministers had been unyielding in their insistence that the British economy had to follow the German mark, keeping interest rates high, even in the face of business collapses. Overnight, Cabinet ministers were converted to the opposite philosophy by events beyond their control. The Government has never recovered from the blow to its authority.

The economic costs and benefits of Europe differ hugely between separate sectors of the economy. Smaller businesses which do not export are likely to have resented the ERM. Larger, multinational industrial groups concentrated in export trade emphasise the benefits of pan-European regulation and a regulated, frontier-free market of 380 million people from the Arctic to the Aegean.



A back-door exit for Chancellor Norman Lamont in September 1992 as interest rate turmoil led to ejection from the ERM

Europhile politicians point out that in value terms, the EU market is 1¼ times the size of the American market and 2½ times as large as the Japanese. Sceptics say that the opportunities of the next generation lie in Asian economies — China above all — which grow at three or four times the rate of stagnant European rivals.

The true costs and benefits of the EU to the British economy lie in between. The table (below right) discloses the plain and unexciting truth that Britain's economic health does not depend on the EU, but that complete withdrawal would involve enormous dislocation. The figures tell us little about what economic damage staying outside a single currency might do, since Britain would not automatically be excluded from the market. But many businessmen fear that an economic and political "core" Europe would slowly push British firms to the margins, depriving them of opportunities for mergers and acquisitions.

Mr Major has made great play with the claim that Britain's opt-out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty protected the country from expensive, job-destroying EU law. Although no comprehensive survey is possible, a majority of business opinion seems to agree with him; there is no strong lobby outside the TUC demanding entry to the social chapter.

But Mr Major often expresses his claim in ways which undermine his own case. He has said that joining the social chapter would cost half a million jobs but has produced no calculations to support the claim.

He does not always grasp that the opt-out gives Britain some protection from some EU social law, not complete insulation from all such legislation. He often implies that the opt-out encourages foreign investment to come to Britain rather than to other EU states. There is little hard evidence to support that. The risks posed by the social chapter lie in its potential to add costs; but so far it has imposed few. Britain's competitive advantage is that British labour law has been reformed to cut the costs of employing Britons as against the cost of hiring French or German workers.

Much debate about "common foreign and security policy" has also revealed a large gap between reality and rhetoric. British governments believe that integrating the foreign policies of substantial sovereign states has never been possible by the methods used to merge economies. In 1991, Douglas Hurd was a lone advocate among European foreign ministers of this unremarkable contention. By this year and after the EU's stumblingly ineffectual handling of the Bosnian civil war, the British position is widely, if discreetly, accepted.

Not all collective action is a waste of time. The EU states negotiate as a single body in world trade negotiations and gain greater clout from their strength of numbers. But the lack of commonly agreed purpose and a common military force disables the EU's ambition to be a superpower.

Possibly the greatest disappointment in Britain's European policy of the past few years has been the Government's failure to press a powerfully argued case for admitting Central European states to the EU. If the original high moral purpose of European integration was to entrench democracy and to lower the risk of war by progressive economic and social intermingling of societies, then the lowering of the Iron Curtain presents Europe with a chance to relaunch itself.

British ministers, besieged by sceptics who wanted red-blooded hostility to everything across the Channel, lost interest in becoming advocates for making Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic early members of the EU. Herr Kohl, who wants the single currency to take precedence over EU enlargement, has successfully discouraged grand-standing on the issue. The next government has an opportunity to rectify this sad state of affairs.

THE POLITICIANS

■ MALCOLM RIFKIND



Age: 50

Education: George Watson's College and Edinburgh University.

Family: married, one son, one daughter.

Politics: once rather "wet" on issues such as Europe and gently sympathetic to Scottish devolution; now making sceptical noises about Europe and firmly opposed to devolution. Unable to shake the suspicions that he has trimmed to suit the prevailing wind and not out of conviction.

Performance: thoroughly determined Scottish lawyer but without long-term vision or the political clout to help to heal Cabinet wounds caused by the single currency. Failed to convince Cabinet that the "beef war" would be a diplomatic and political fiasco.

■ ROBIN COOK



Age: 51

Education: Aberdeen Grammar School and Edinburgh University.

Family: married with two sons. His wife, Margaret, is a hospital consultant. One of his sons helps to compile his father's racing tips column for a Scottish newspaper.

Politics: Tribunite Left, veering to Centre. By new Labour standards, sceptical about EU in general and single currency in particular. While robustly defending the Blairite line, always manages to leave the lingering impression that he would incline further leftwards.

Performance: despite the appearance of an irritable ginger-haired gnome, he terrifies Tories by the use of sharp, sardonic aggression at the dispatch box.

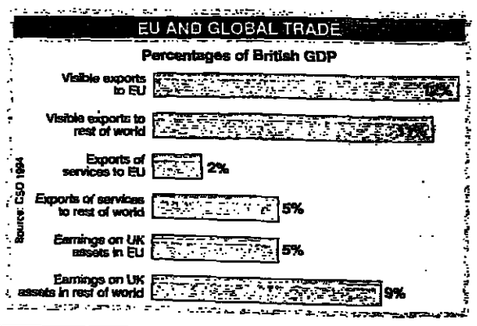
THE FACTS

☐ Britain's net contribution to the EU budget for 1995 (the latest year available) was £2.86 billion, the highest contribution of any member state except Germany, whose payment was £11 billion.

☐ Large EU states have served notice that they want to alter the majority voting quotas which load the system in favour of smaller states. Belgium, with a population about one eighth the size of Germany's, has half Germany's voting weight.

☐ The next government will face two major European summits within weeks of taking office: the EU heads of government meeting in Amsterdam June 16-17, which is supposed to settle the revisions of the Maastricht treaty, and the Nato summit in Madrid on July 8, which should invite selected central European states to join the alliance.

☐ A recent opinion poll asked whether people thought they would be better or worse off in ten or 20 years if their countries were using a single currency. In France 53 per cent of respondents said that they would better off and only 18 per cent thought that they would fare worse. In both Germany and Britain, respondents thought they would be worse off by ratios of 2:1.



CONSERVATIVES



Vision: EU should be a "partnership of nation states". Nation state remains a "rock of security", and is the basic building block of the European system and gives a sense of belonging.
EMU: Cabinet ministers paying lip service to "wait and see" vary greatly in practice across a range of viewpoints. In constituency election addresses many candidates have broken with official policy, using anti-EMU formulas on a scale from tepid reluctance to visceral hostility.
Maastricht II: no increase in majority voting or the powers of the European Parliament. No direct EU control of the Western European Union defence group. Pragmatic reform of European Court of Justice.
Enlargement: in favour of admitting Central European states, but warning that common agricultural policy and regional subsidies will have to be drastically cut.
"Core" Europe: any arrangements to allow inner groups to press ahead must be open to all and agreed by all.

LABOUR



Vision: an alliance of independent nations choosing to co-operate to achieve the goals they cannot achieve alone. "We oppose a European federal superstate." Promises to give Britain "leadership in Europe".
EMU: retain British opt-out and make "complex and difficult judgment" on basis of "hard-headed assessment of economic reality". Staying out would grow harder if success of euro provoked pressure for British membership.
Maastricht II: limited extension of majority voting conditional on new voting weight for large states. Will join social chapter. No significant change to joint foreign policy: hostile to European army. Will not relax British immigration control.
Enlargement: enthusiastic about Central European membership. EU expansion planned as major theme of British EU presidency in first half of next year.
"Core" Europe: hostile in principle, but recent pragmatic noises.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

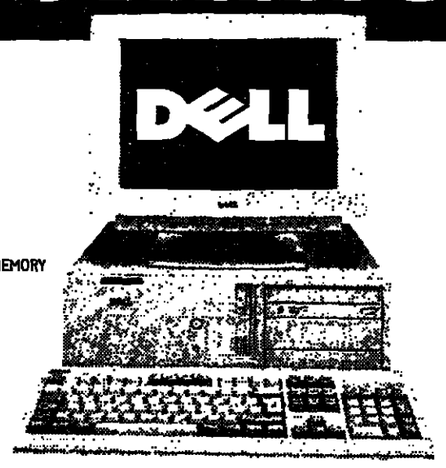


Vision: a decentralised federal United Kingdom within a decentralised federal European Union. Britain must show leadership in Europe.
EMU: it is in Britain's interests to join as and when monetary union begins. Britain and its economy can only suffer by staying outside the single currency and will in any case be forced to run economic policy in parallel with the euro zone.
Maastricht II: extend majority voting but not to treaty changes or the EU budget. Open secretive Council of Ministers to public. Extend amending and blocking powers of European Parliament. Reduce numbers of European Commissioners.
Enlargement: EU should be "wider and deeper" and moved by the "spirit of enlargement". EU may well expand to 25 members in next decade.
"Core" Europe: Franco-German plan incompatible with the spirit of enlargement.

Definitely a catch.

DELL DIMENSION P166a
- INTEL PENTIUM® PROCESSOR 166MHz
- 16MB SDRAM
- 512Kb PIPELINE BURST CACHE
- 2GB HARD DRIVE
- 15"COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (13.75"VIEWABLE AREA)
- INTEGRATED S3 VIRGE DX VIDEO WITH 2MB EDO VIDEO MEMORY
- MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- MICROSOFT® WINDOWS 95

£899 (£1,085.70) INCL. DELIVERY & VAT

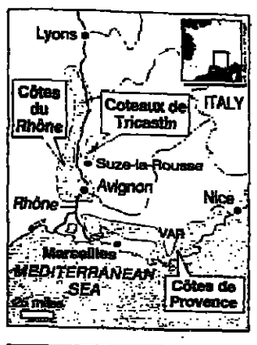


Some of our competitors claim to be offering better deals than us. But when it comes to offering so much for little, no one can catch us. Take the Dell Dimension™ P166a Power Platform. It comes with the awesome Intel Pentium® Processor 166MHz and a price tag of only £899 (£1,085.70 inc delivery and VAT). And just to prove a point, it also includes a large 2Gb Hard Drive and a 15" monitor (13.75" vis). All in all, a better deal than anything put up by our competitors. Call us today on 01344 724 863 and talk to the world's largest direct PC manufacturer.* *Source: IDC

DELL
TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE.
01344 724863
Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat.
Visit our website: http://www.dell.com/uk

Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks and Dell Dimension is a trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows, Office Professional 95 are registered trademarks of the Microsoft Corporation. Microsoft is a registered trademark. Delivery is charged at £25 (£29.37inc VAT) per system. Finance is available subject to status. Full details available on request. Prices correct at date of publication. The photographed product may not always match the specifications in this advert. Prices quoted refer to specification descriptions only. The prices listed reflect the information available at the time of going to press. Prices change frequently. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. Offer supplied with Windows 95, Dell mouse and keyboard included. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd, Milbanke House, Western Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1RD. Offer available for a limited period only.

Severe spring frost takes a hefty nip out of southern French vineyards



FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

WINE growers in southeast France estimate that up to 80 per cent of the expected grape harvest in certain parts of the Var and the Drôme may be lost after an exceptionally severe frost struck the region.

The sudden cold snap will reduce the volume of Côtes-du-Rhône this year by between 10 and 20 per cent, the Comité Interprofessionnel de Côtes-du-Rhône said yesterday, although exports are not expected to be affected. The volume of Côtes de Provence, Coteaux Varois and Coteaux d'Aix will also be reduced.

As a wave of cold air swept across the region, the temperature fell to -5C (23F) on the night of April 17. The resulting frost blackened vines, particularly vulnerable as they were three weeks more advanced than usual at this time of year after a mild and sunny spring.

One of the hardest-hit *appellations* will be Coteaux du Tricastin, with up to 80 per cent of the vines burnt by frost. "Everywhere you look there is desolation," lamented the proprietor of 22 hectares (54 acres) of vinyards at Suze-la-Rousse in the Drôme, which produces Coteaux du Tricastin and Côtes du Rhône. "It is completely done for. There is not a single bud left which is green," added the local mayor, Michel Rieu, himself a wine grower.

Seven thousand hectares of vineyards producing Côtes-du-Rhône out of a total of 43,500 hectares have been affected by the frost.

In the Vaucluse, the situation was the same, with more than a third of vineyards suffering from temperatures as low as -7C. Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Gigondas and Vacqueyras are among the wines included in the estimated loss of 500,000 hectolitres (11 million gallons).

In the Var alone, where 20 communities were affected, the loss is estimated at 80 million francs (£8.8 million). More than 10 per cent of the region's annual production representing about 200,000 hectolitres has been lost, including 100,000 hectolitres of Côtes de Provence, about a quarter of the expected yield. Exports of Côtes-du-Rhône are not expected to be affected as there are significant stocks to meet overseas demand. Nor, according to Marie-Pierre Delpeuch, a spokesperson for the Comité, will the quality of the wine be affected.

However, the harvest will be made more difficult for growers as they must now distinguish between those vines which were affected by the frost, whose grapes will ripen more slowly, and those which escaped. "As a result, many growers will have to harvest twice this year. It is going to be very complicated for them," said Mme Delpeuch. A crisis group was set up in the region to estimate the damage and to investigate the possibility of financial compensation for the wine growers, who last night were lamenting what they described as a "financial catastrophe".

Fruit growers in the Drôme were also severely affected by the adverse weather conditions. The community of Tain L'Hermitage suffered the worst with farmers predicting that more than 80 per cent of the local crop of apricots, cherries and pears had been ruined.

Photograph, page 28

Unicef condemns plight of young in Eastern Europe

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A MILLION children are in care in Eastern Europe, hundreds of thousands live on the streets, drug and alcohol abuse among adolescents has reached record levels, and abandoned offspring are increasingly ending up as prostitutes or as victims of paedophiles.

That was the dismal picture drawn by Unicef yesterday in a 170-page report charting the fate of children in post-communist countries since 1989. The composite picture of a destroyed generation suggests that children had it rather better under communism. "In many ways they are worse off now, and this is a scandal," admitted the principal author, Gaspar Fajth.

Unicef emphasises that it was not advocating a turning-back of the political clock. "If you compare the material situation of children then and now, you could say they were better off," said John Micklewright, a Unicef official. "But this does not mean that communism is better for children. These are countries in transition, and the question is where they end up — as relatively more hostile to children, as in Latin America, or more friendly, as in Western Europe."

The report indicates that children are being abandoned on a massive scale. Divorces outstrip marriages in much of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. "Marriage and remarriage rates have plunged the most in the Baltic and Caucasian countries, where in some cases the number of marriages has dropped by half," the report said.

The breakdown of communism introduced the region to mass unemployment: 4.8 million jobs have disappeared in Central Europe since 1989, 2.2 million in southeast Europe, and 13.2 million in Russia and the former Soviet Union. There are huge income differentials. The number of children living in poverty has risen drastically in the past six years. This has hit nutritional standards, increasing the prevalence of stunted growth. Neglect is also a problem, with parents trying to hold down several jobs. Bulgaria estimates that four in five children have no after-school supervision.

> "Children are worse off now than under communism. This is a scandal"

The social consequences of this neglect are evident. Adolescents are running wild. Sexually transmitted diseases are on the increase among 14 to 17-year-olds, especially in the Baltic states, and the countries in the western part of the former Soviet Union. Syphilis is common in the region, after being virtually eradicated in the 1980s. The number of alcohol-related problems among Russian adolescents has jumped from 14.8 per 1,000 youths in 1990 to 27.3 in 1994. Marijuana smoking and glue-sniffing have become common to most schools.

Between 1989 and 1995, juvenile delinquency has increased. Shops in Warsaw have been selling out of baseball bats bought by combative rather than sporting Polish adolescents.

The growing number of street children has also encouraged the sexual exploitation of minors. In Riga, the Latvian capital, only 6 per cent of prostitutes were under the age of 15 in 1989. Now 24 per cent are minors. More than 1,000 Romanian boys are working as prostitutes in Berlin.

Unicef is urging the governments of the East not to neglect social welfare in their difficult transition to market economy. The charity is pressing for new systems of family support and child protection services. Child welfare services on the British model could help, as could family centres and parental support groups, the report said.

COLIN MULVANY / AP



Children squeezed into a small dormitory at an orphanage in Targoviste, Romania

Coalition intact as Netanyahu placates critics

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL's Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, yesterday reinforced his reputation as the Houdini of politics by emerging from the country's most serious scandal with his political strength undiminished.

As the Jewish state prepared for last night's start of the Passover holiday, all leading members of Mr Netanyahu's ruling coalition who had threatened possible resignation vowed to continue backing his hardline Likud Government, maintaining its comfortable tally of 66 seats in the 120-member Knesset.

The potential rebels within and beyond Likud claimed that Mr Netanyahu had been vindicated by the decision of the country's two senior law officers not to press charges of fraud and breach of trust recommended in a 995-page police report, which briefly threatened to plunge the country into a divisive June election.

Two senior Likud Cabinet members — Dan Meridor, the Finance Minister, and Limor Livnat, the Communications Minister — withdrew threats of resignation, demonstrating their agreement with Zevulun Hammer, the leader of the National Religious Party, a key coalition partner, who said: "The Government has the right to exist. It is not any worse than others from a moral point of view."

Similar statements of support for Mr Netanyahu, 47, Israel's first directly elected Prime Minister, came from two small parties, The Third Way and the Russian immigrants' party, Israel B'Aliya, which between them control 11 Knesset seats and which had indicated they might pull out.

After party meetings, they pledged their intention to stay in the coalition, making its political position impregnable despite repeated calls from the main opposition Labour Party for new elections.

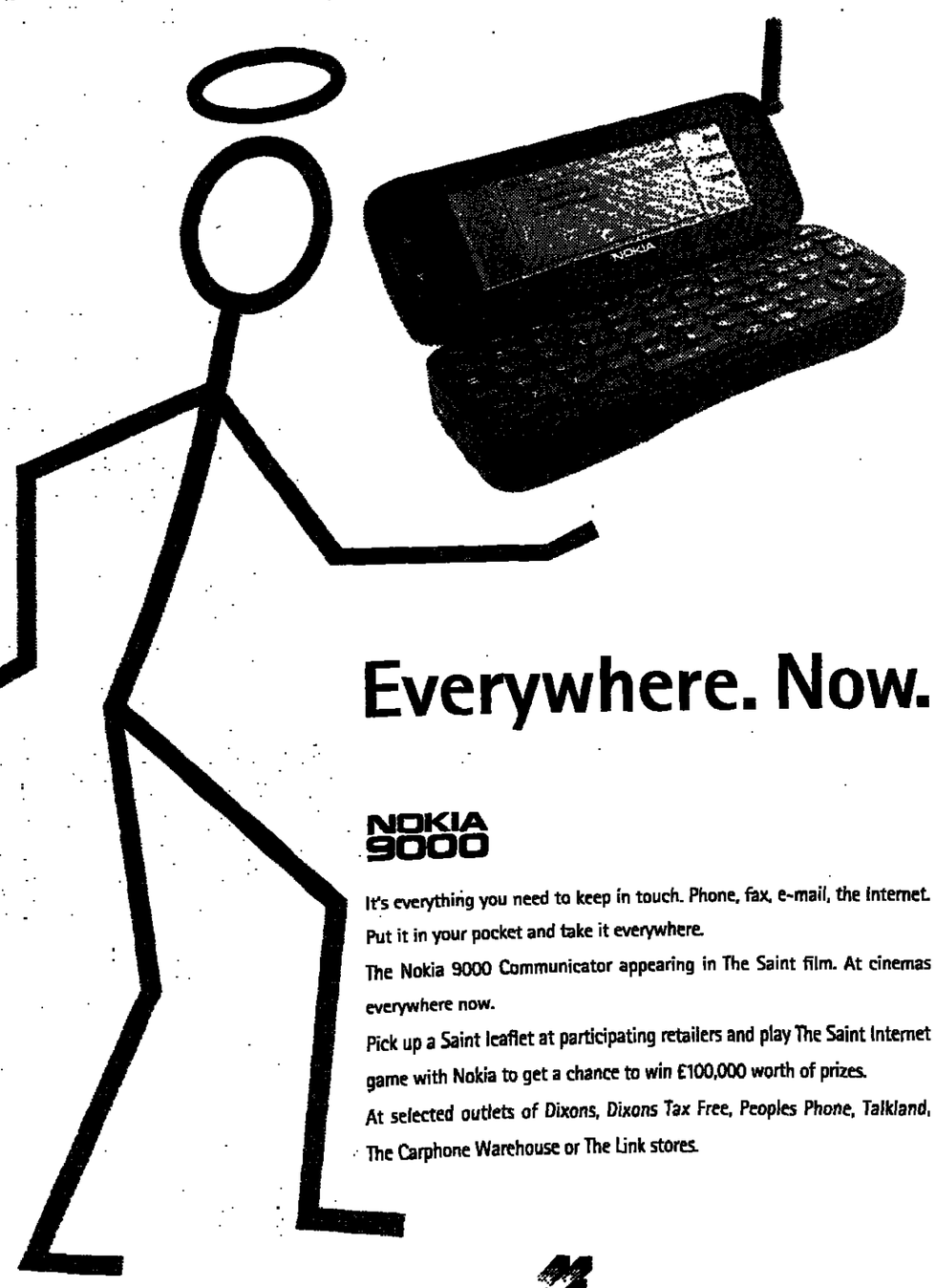
Avigdor Kahalani, the former war hero who founded The Third Way, quashed any lingering Labour hopes when he said in response to the 75-page report by the Attorney-General and the State Attorney: "I am glad the matter is behind us."

In a barnstorming series of television performances, Mr Netanyahu brushed aside many of the doubts raised by the report, which said his actions concerning Roni Bar-On, the Jerusalem criminal lawyer who was named Attorney-General, a post he vacated after only 12 hours, "raised bewildering questions".

The Prime Minister said: "The bottom line is, I did not commit any crime, and the Attorney-General confirmed that. I think, and so do the majority of the people, that this affair is behind us."

His reading of the political pulse was supported by a poll in the Tel Aviv daily newspaper, *Yediot Ahronot*, conducted after the prosecutors' report. It found 58 per cent of Israelis supported Mr Netanyahu's determination not to resign.

Leading article, page 23



Everywhere. Now.

NOKIA 9000

It's everything you need to keep in touch. Phone, fax, e-mail, the Internet. Put it in your pocket and take it everywhere.

The Nokia 9000 Communicator appearing in The Saint film. At cinemas everywhere now.

Pick up a Saint leaflet at participating retailers and play The Saint Internet game with Nokia to get a chance to win £100,000 worth of prizes.

At selected outlets of Dixons, Dixons Tax Free, Peoples Phone, Talkland, The Carphone Warehouse or The Link stores.

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

TM & © 1997 by Paramount.

Nokia and the Nokia symbol are registered trademarks.

"Renewing your home cover in April, May or June?

Just look what you could save if you call."

Calling Midland Direct could save you a lot of time and money on your insurance. We have saved up to 30% and you could save even more through our range of special discounts. Call us now on the number below.

Phone lines are open 8am-8pm Monday-Friday (excluding public holidays) and 10am-2pm Saturday.

Midland Bank
Member HSBC Group

MIDLAND direct

CALL FREE:
0800 277 377

Issued by Midland Bank plc. Calls may be monitored or recorded.

Mining giants sign $3bn-a-year deals with Zairean rebels

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

MINING multinationals have signed billion-dollar deals for mineral rights with Laurent Kabila, Zaire's rebel leader, to get ahead in what is being billed as "the second scramble for Africa".

Mining giants such as De Beers and American Mineral Fields have contracted to develop Zaire's mineral deposits which are worth at least $3 billion (£1.8 billion) a year for copper, cobalt, gold, zinc and diamonds with the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, cutting the legally recognised Government out of the picture.

Executives with the firms said that they are happy to be doing business with the rebels, who control all of Zaire's mineral resources other than its offshore oil fields, because they do not ask for bribes.

De Beers has also ditched its relationship with the fast-crumbling regime of President Mobutu and signed up with the rebels to get involved in a $500 million a year diamond business. The unusual alliance between big business and revolutionaries, many of whom were Chinese-trained Maoists and Marxists in their youth, has been accepted by Western governments, who see Mr Kabila as a man to lead Zaire out of three decades of corruption and staggering poverty.

This week American Mineral Fields signed three contracts worth $885 million which would give the mining house access to the vast metal reserves of Shaba province.

Other multinationals have been asked to provide satellite telephones to the rebels, who have argued that without them they would be unable to negotiate mineral rights deals internationally.

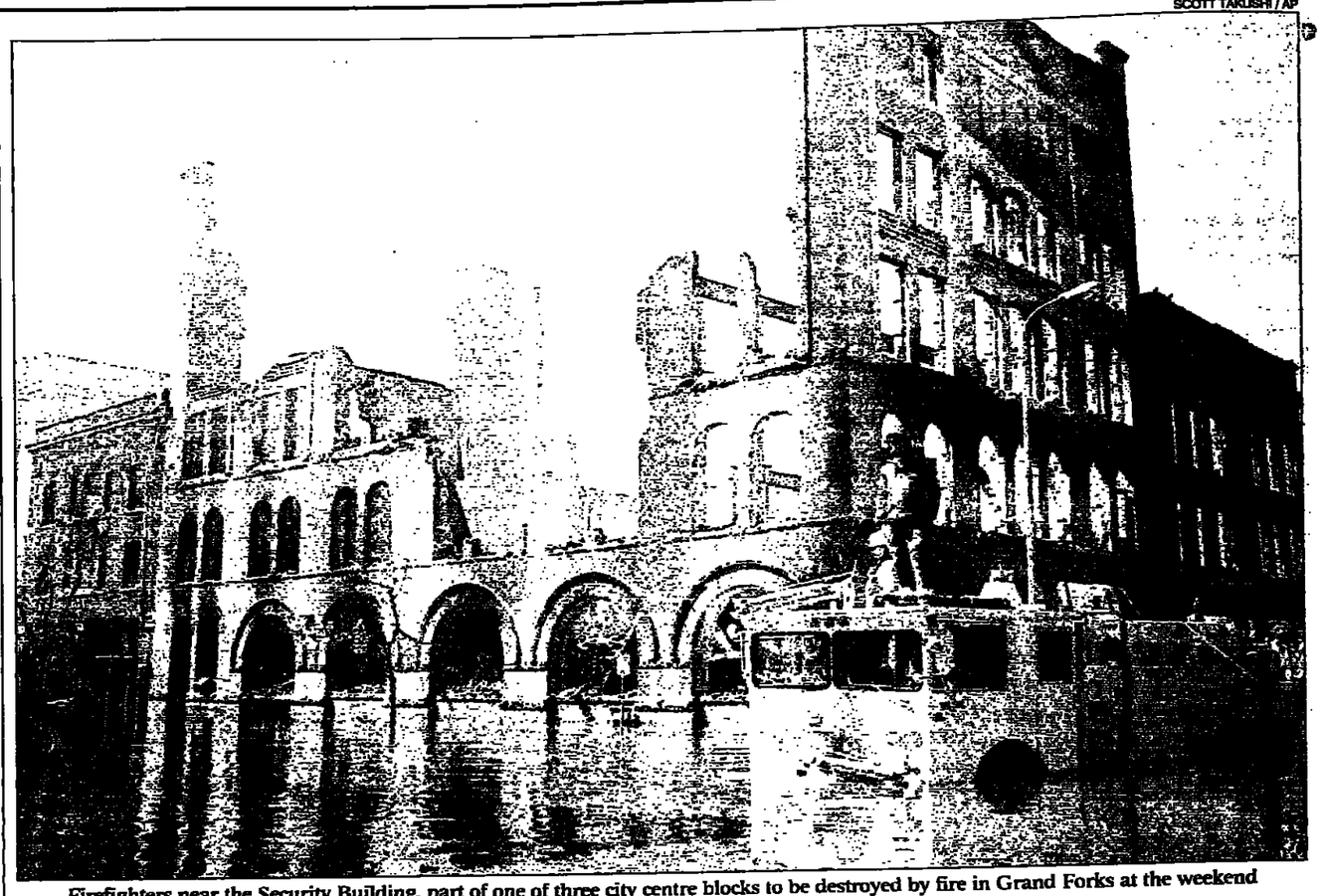
Unlike the days when President Mobutu farmed Zaire's economy as a personal cash cow, the businessmen said that there was no smell of corruption in meetings with the rebel financial chiefs. Michael McMurrough, chief executive and chairman of American Mineral Fields, said: "AMF has not paid anyone anything."

Kenneth MacLeod, president of International Panorama Resource Corporation of Vancouver, said: "We are going to capitalise on the current strife by increasing our presence and our land holdings in the country."

Another mining magnate based in Johannesburg gave the second scramble a historic twist: "Cecil Rhodesmust be spinning in his grave at the opportunities he is missing."

☐ **Kasese:** Aid workers suspended operations in Rwandan refugee camps last night after an outbreak of looting, murder of local people and attacks on foreign journalists and aid workers by Zairean mobs. The Zaireans blamed Rwandan Hutu militiamen for the killings. *(AP)*

SCOTT TAKUSHI / AP



Firefighters near the Security Building, part of one of three city centre blocks to be destroyed by fire in Grand Forks at the weekend

Flooded city takes stock after inferno

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

GRAND FORKS in North Dakota, battered by floods and fire, has been left looking like a scene from wartime Dresden. Three blocks of the town were destroyed by a blaze that firemen, stranded by the flooding Red River, were unable to reach. They even tried taking fire engines into the area on the back of flatbed lorries, but failed.

Police said that 90 per cent of the city's 50,000 residents, including hospital patients, had been moved to higher ground. More than 10 square miles of the state's second biggest conurbation were inundated after heavy spring rains and melting of record snow, and the handful of people left in their homes were praying, awaiting rescue, or, in one or two cases, defiantly flying the Stars and Stripes.

Grand Forks city centre was sitting in up to 7ft of stinking, sewage-tainted water but that did not prevent the fire spreading. The 11 destroyed buildings included a bank, offices, flats and the headquarters of the *Grand Forks Herald*. The cause of the fire was unknown. It was finally doused by helicopters, which dropped a mixture of chemicals and yet more water.

President Clinton is to visit the stricken area today, the White House said.

Whitewater prosecutor seeks longer inquiry

Washington: The Whitewater inquiry gains further momentum this week (Tom Rhodes writes). Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, is expected to seek a six-month extension for a federal grand jury investigating the alleged involvement of President and Hillary Clinton in illegal transactions in Arkansas.

Mr Starr's decision comes amid reports of repeated contact between Bruce Lindsey, the President's closest confidant, and Webster Hubbell, the former Justice Department official convicted of fraud, who is alleged to have received money to keep silent about Whitewater. At the time, both were key witnesses in the case.

The jury was due to disband at the beginning of next month but the extension, which must be granted by the court in Little Rock, would retain its 23 members until the end of November.



One Stop

to buy or sell

Alliance and Leicester, Halifax

or Woolwich shares.

Wherever you decide to do with your windfall shares, you'll find it easy at NatWest.

You can sell or buy more shares at all our branches, even if you don't bank with us. And, at around 260 branches, we offer an Instant Share Dealing service. You'll see the latest share price on a computer screen. If you want to sell or buy, you can leave a few minutes later with a contract note confirming the deal.

Remember, if you are selling you must bring your share certificate with you. If you don't bank with us, you need to bring identification showing your signature and address, such as a current utilities bill and either a full UK passport or a full UK driving licence.

To keep you up to date with latest news on windfall shares as they come to the market, we have two new automated telephone information services. PriceLine, 0891 55 11 88 for latest share prices and OpinionLine, 0897 55 11 88 for latest prices plus expert opinion.

If you want to hold onto your shares, or reinvest your windfall in a tax efficient PEP, we offer a number of alternatives. These include Self-Select PEPs, designed for the more experienced investor receiving multiple windfalls. And, if you don't wish to manage your own portfolio, we may be able to exchange your shares for units in a NatWest Unit Trust PEP of your choice.

We also have an extensive range of other savings and investments services, which cater for both long and short-term needs.

For more information, visit any branch or

call 0800 200 400

8am-8pm Monday to Friday or 9am-6pm on Saturdays.

Whichever route you choose, it could be just the ticket for you.

NatWest

More than just a bank

Calls to PriceLine are charged at 50p per minute at all times. Calls to OpinionLine are charged at £1 per minute at all times. These services are provided by TIS Limited. These services can only be used on telephones that have a tone dialling feature such as the BT TouchTone phone. Any information given via these telephone services should not be taken as a personal recommendation to buy or sell the shares concerned. Any opinions given constitute the judgement of NatWest Stockbrokers at the time of recording and are subject to change. Please bear in mind that the value of investments, and the income from them, can go down as well as up, and that you may not recover the amount of your original investment. Tax reliefs referred to are those applying under current legislation, which may change, and their availability and value will depend on your individual circumstances. We may monitor/record your phone calls with us in order to maintain/improve our service. Share dealing services are provided by NatWest Stockbrokers Limited, which is a member of the London Stock Exchange and regulated by the Securities and Futures Authority. The Plan Manager for NatWest Unit Trust PEPs is National Westminster Unit Trust Managers Limited, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. National Westminster Bank Plc is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. Registered Office Address: 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP. Ref No. 15019

The Open University

Study for a BA or BSc degree.

To broaden your interests or develop your career, the Open University offers over 150 courses you can choose from to build your own BA or BSc degree programme. They cover arts, science, social science, computing, technology, modern languages, mathematics, business management, law, education and health and social welfare. If you are 18 or over and resident in the European Union, you're eligible. No previous qualifications are required.

THROUGH OU SUPPORTED OPEN LEARNING

Our unique method of teaching lets you study wherever you live and in your own time. The Open University comes to you with specially written texts, audio and visual cassettes, TV and radio programmes and, for some courses, computer software. You also receive support from your personal tutor and Regional Centre.

Admissions are on a first-come first-served basis - so fill in the coupon or phone NOW.

Send for your free prospectus on 'Courses, Diplomas and BA/BSc Degrees' NOW.

Send to: The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes, MK1 1TY.
☐ Please send me a copy of the Courses, Diploma and BA/BSc Degrees prospectus.

Name U97EE

Address

Postcode Tel

OU Hotline (24 hours) 01908 379199

University education and training open to all adults.



Chirac announces early poll to gain mandate for EMU

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC last night announced early parliamentary elections in an attempt to give his Gaullist-led Government a clear mandate to lead France into Europe's single currency.

In an unprecedented constitutional move, M Chirac brought the election forward by a year. The first round will be on May 25, the second a week later. Speaking on television last night, he offered a passionate explanation, saying that the "interest of the country commands that we advance the elections".

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, will head the centre-right majority's campaign, pledging cuts in state spending and taxes. However, the campaign will be dominated by Europe, with M Chirac and M Juppé determined that France is ready for the single currency in 1999.

With key decisions on monetary union and the reform of European institutions to be taken over the next year, France needed a strong Government. "In order to approach these deadlines from a position of strength ... your agreement and support are essential," he told voters.

Lionel Jospin, the opposition Socialist party's leader, has promised to renegotiate monetary union to implement expansionist economic policies should he becomes Prime Minister. The result of the election could also hinge on the performance of minority parties such as Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme right-wing National Front, which is opposed to the Maastricht treaty.

According to an opinion poll in yesterday's *Le Figaro*, the Gaullist-led Government is likely to win a majority of the 577 seats in the National Assembly.

The coalition formed by M Chirac's Gaullists and the centrist UDF movement won a crushing majority in the 1993 legislative elections as voters abandoned left-wing parties dogged by sleaze allegations.

Under the French constitution, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet represent the majority in the National Assembly, even if they oppose the President. M Chirac could, therefore, find himself involved in a difficult *cohabitation* with M Jospin until his term of office ends in 2002.

The head of state, who wanted to announce the snap election on Thursday, was forced to confirm his decision yesterday after it was widely leaked. His opponents will accuse him of opportunism, pointing out he is the first President in the Fifth Republic to dissolve the National Assembly for "his own convenience". They believe the Government is planning further spending cuts this year.

M Jospin said: "If the majority was confident of the success of its policies, it would wait calmly for the elections in a year." M Le Pen, who yesterday earned widespread condemnation for his description of the Nazi gas chambers as "a detail of history", said: "The President is afraid that 1998 will be full of threats."

However, M Chirac's coalition will argue that its reforms are vital for France's future. He said France needed a far-reaching reform of the state to make possible a cut in public spending, the only way to reduce taxes and welfare charges which weighed too heavily on citizens and discouraged initiative. "We must go further along the road to change," M Chirac said.

Gaullists gamble on decisive win

BY ADAM SAGE

ANALYSIS

EUROPE will weigh heavily in the French legislative elections called yesterday by President Chirac, and the elections will weigh heavily on Europe.

A decisive victory for the ruling centre-right coalition would be certain to accelerate moves towards monetary union and political integration. Any other result would fuel the doubts hanging over the single currency and the intergovernmental conference on the reform of European institutions.

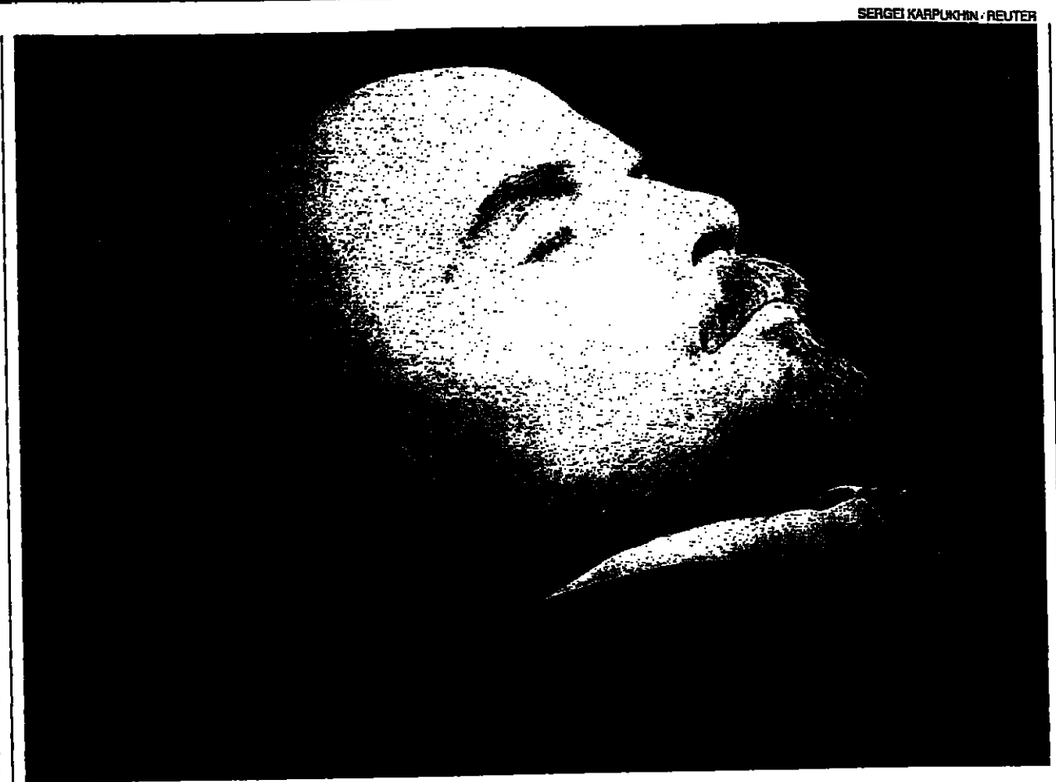
Most opinion polls say the Gaullist-led majority is likely to win. But none of France's mainstream leaders can claim to be respected by a volatile electorate, which could turn either to the Socialist-led opposition or anti-European protest parties. The Socialists want to renegotiate monetary union and the protest movements want to scrap it.

Given the uncertainty, yesterday's decision represents a bold gamble. M Chirac's job is secure until the next presidential election in 2002, but if the centre-right loses its parliamentary majority, the President would have to share power with the Socialists. Under the French constitution, the head of state can dissolve parliament at any time. Yet no President has used his power in this way before. Legislative elections have always been called immediately after a presidential election or during a major crisis. The Gaullists must convince the electorate that it was necessary to break with tradition and call the polls for a month's time, a year before they were due to be held.

With M Chirac likely to step above the political fray, it will be left to Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, to explain that France needs a strong government to lead the country into the intergovernmental conference and single currency. He says his Government will have greater authority in European negotiations if it has a clear electoral mandate.

However, the ruling coalition will mind its words over Europe. Many Gaullist voters are hostile towards the single currency and angry about austerity budgets to prepare France for monetary union.

SERGEI KARPUKHIN / REUTER



Lenin back on display

The body of Lenin, which has been returned to public display in his mausoleum in Red Square after a three-month course of treatment by embalmers.

As the remains of the founder of the Soviet state underwent a series of chemical baths in the specially designed underground laboratory adjoining the marble mausoleum in Moscow, a debate raged in Russia over his final resting place (Robin Lodge writes). A growing number of liberal politicians have been demanding the removal and burial of the remains, both on grounds of common decency and as a gesture of renunciation of Russia's Soviet past. But Communists and other members of the old guard argue that such a move would amount to betrayal for millions of Russians and a denial of the country's history and heritage. A Communist resolution last month denouncing any attempt to move the body as an act of vandalism failed to gain a majority.

President Yeltsin has suggested there should be a referendum on the issue.

WORLD SUMMARY

Saddam to flout flight ban

Nicosia: Iraq declared yesterday that it would flout a no-fly zone imposed by American and British warplanes by sending helicopters to collect "sick and exhausted" pilgrims returning from Mecca (Michael Theodoulou writes).

Saddam Hussein also issued a warning that threats to the pilgrims' safety would be "met with the suitable response to deter aggression". The White House said it would, if necessary, respond "appropriately, but we're not going to shoot down civilian helicopters".

Troops arrive

Hong Kong: Forty soldiers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army arrived in Hong Kong yesterday, the advance party of the 10,000 troops who will replace the British garrison on July 1 (Jonathan Mirsky writes). The soldiers will start preparing barracks for the garrison, the first mainland unit in Hong Kong for more than 150 years, and make logistical arrangements.

Internet charges

Rosenheim: A German couple are to stand trial for offering through the Internet to provide children for sexual torture to sadomasochist paedophiles. They are alleged to have said they could arrange the kidnapping, rape and other sexual abuse of children for money. Murder would cost extra. *(AFP)*

Royal rejection

Stockholm: King Carl XVI Gustaf, 50, has upset Sweden's Freemasons and broken a 200-year tradition by refusing to succeed his late uncle, Prince Bertil, as the organisation's Grand Master, *Expressen*, the Swedish daily newspaper, reported. *(AFP)*

Pakistan endorses new Delhi leader

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S twelfth Prime Minister, Inder Kumar Gujral, was sworn in yesterday at the presidential palace in Delhi to the uncommon sound of accolades from all countries in the region, even Pakistan.

No choice of leader for South Asia's superpower could have been more popular with Islamabad. Its warm message represented a rare sign of hope that the two nations could embark on serious attempts at conciliation for the first time since their last war — the third — in 1971.

Mr Gujral has given Indo-Pakistan relations top priority and can be expected to seek an early dialogue with Nawaz Sharif, his Pakistani opposite number, with whom he has a good personal relationship. He was born in Mr Sharif's home province of Punjab in 1919 and retains family links there. His wife, too, was born in what is now Pakistan — in Lahore, the Punjabi capital.

The Prime Minister's office in Islamabad hoped that Mr Gujral's "welcome" appointment, to be confirmed in parliament today, would lead to better relations. Almost every Pakistani newspaper welcomed the appointment.

Mr Gujral, 77, made it clear last night that he would press for the opening of cross-border trade, all but non-existent now. He was sure of success. In a recent interview with *The Times*, he said he had "emotional" feelings towards Pakistanis because of his background and wanted relations normalised in his lifetime.

India had a vested interest in a strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan because any fire in a neighbour's house was bound to spread. The aim should be to tackle the least controversial issues, such as trade and visa restrictions, and use them to build confidence. Political uncertainty in Delhi has made Islamabad reluctant to consider any conciliatory gestures — such as demilitarisation of the disputed Siachen Glacier — and it may still feel that the 13-party United Front coalition is too unstable for bold decisions.

Mr Sharif is Pakistan's strongest elected leader; he has a two-thirds parliamentary majority, Islamic hardliners are sidelined, and the army appears committed to democracy. There has never been a better opportunity for Pakistan to offer concessions.

SWIFTCALL
0800 769 0022

LOW COST INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS

SWIFTCALL VS BRITISH TELECOM

Australia Swiftcall 20p B.T. 49p	India Swiftcall 60p B.T. £1.20
Germany Swiftcall 16p B.T. 28p	Nigeria Swiftcall 70p B.T. £1.05
Japan Swiftcall 30p B.T. 77p	USA Swiftcall 10p B.T. 24p

Swiftcall prices apply at all times.

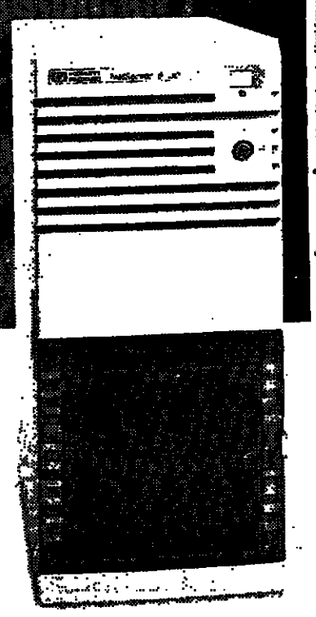
For further information on hundreds of other destinations and how to use, call us now on Freephone 0800 769 0022

Our simple service is available for use with any touch tone phone including mobiles and payphones today.

Swiftcall prices apply 24hrs a day 7 days a week, plus we offer per second billing. Comparisons made to standard weekday rates. All prices are in pence per minute. Please have your credit card ready when you call.

New phonecards available from all good newsagents. Distributors urgently required. CALL FREEPHONE 0800 769 0000 NOW.

HP's new NetServer E-30 means goodbye to the desktop PC server.



A lot of business people think that real network servers are not for them. You see them as more complicated to use than desktop PC servers, with features you don't need and a price you can't afford.

Now, there's something to challenge this point of view. The HP NetServer E-30 is the first ever server designed specifically for use in small workgroups and businesses that have limited or no access to MIS expertise. And you can get it for about the same price as a typical desktop PC server.

The HP NetServer E-30 also has advantages which a PC can never provide: maximisation of uptime, network health monitoring tools, and fully certified compatibility with Microsoft® Windows NT™ and Novell NetWare®.

Best of all, HP's NetServer E-30 is extraordinarily easy to use. Thanks to the Installation Assistant program, setting up is no harder than following the instructions on the CD-ROM. It is almost as simple as "plug and forget."

Our Autopilot™ feature permanently monitors the health of your network. A simple series of traffic lights tells you what's going on and predicts any future problems. It even has on-site diagnostics, and in the unlikely event of a software failure, the Automatic Server Restart will get your server up and running again often before you even know about it. We mean it when we say that our NetServer is dedicated to being able to serve you at all times. Such reliability is only to be expected from Hewlett-Packard – one of the world's leading server vendors.

One final point. Using the HP NetServer E-30 lets you devote more time to your real job, growing your business. (And as your network gets bigger, the E-30 will cope happily with your expansion). So if you thought you couldn't afford a real server, think again.

For more details, visit our website at http://www.hp.com/go/netserver or call us on 0990 474747.

HEWLETT® PACKARD

NETSERVER E-30 FEATURES
• Intel Pentium® processor 166 MHz • 16MB ECC (expandable to 192MB) • 256k cache • 2.1 GB Hard Disk (maximum hard disk capacity 21 GB) • 1MB VRAM • PCI/ISA Bus • CD ROM standard (IDE 4 x CD ROM) • Installed SCSI-2 F & N (A2910AI SCSI controller) • 10 Base T/10 Base 2 combo HP nic • 6 slots, 2 PCI, 2 PCI/ISA, 2 ISA 6 shelves: 1 floppy, 3 front 5.25,2 internal 3.5 • Keyboard/mouse • Configuration Assistant • Certified for Microsoft® Windows NT™ & Novell NetWare® • Fully-assisted installation of NetWare and NT • Diagnostic Assistant • Information Assistant • HP Auto Pilot™ Monitoring System • Automatic Server Restart (ASR) • Choice of warranty (3 year 2nd day, 3 year same day, 3 year 24hr x 7 or 1 year next day)

intel inside pentium® PROCESSOR

Taking marriage for granted is the essential thing

In part two of our series on marriage, **John Bayley**, husband to Iris Murdoch for 40 years, reflects that the point of being married lies in its permanence

DAVID GAMBLE



John Bayley and his wife Iris Murdoch have always listened to The Archers with a common sense of absurdity: even the pigs can provide them with a source of amusement

GROWING OLD TOGETHER

In Anthony Powell's superbly constructed novel sequence *A Dance to the Music of Time*, there is a good deal about marriage, both in terms of commentary and example.

Marriage, he ruminates, can be investigated and explained, but it is doubtful if an existing marriage can be described directly in the first person and convey a sense of reality. One cannot, in fact, define the distinctive "marriedness" of one's own arrangement, though one can have a shot, as Powell does admirably, at conveying an idea of how two other people are getting on in the married state.

Marriage, Powell concludes, contains "a hundred dual antagonisms and participations — the moods of a love affair, the contradictions of friendship, the jealousy of business partners, the fellow-feeling of opposed commanders in total war".

It sounds a strenuous business, and in a way no doubt it is. Its pains can be defined more easily than its pleasures, and Powell is not the only novelist to have charted those pains both hilariously and gruesomely. Dr Johnson was surely wrong, too, in remarking that although "marriage has many pains, celibacy has no pleasures". Celibacy has lots of pleasures, which can be catalogued much more easily than those of marriage, and for that reason are, in the end, perhaps less worth having.

Marriedness, therefore, exists as a separate state only in so far as you don't try to define it. You must look at it mystically, or negatively, ticking off the things that are ultimately irrelevant to it, such as sex and procreation.

There is no need to be married to be very successful at these related activities. Two people can live together for years, have a perfect sex life and a number of children, and yet have no idea what marriage is all about. Merely living with someone, as Powell notes in *Memoirs*, is quite a different experience, which, by apparently imitating it, paradoxically falsifies the idea of marriage. You must do the real thing to find out what it is. Those who are married in all but name are apt to be too conscious of their relationship to take it for granted.

And taking it for granted is the essential thing. Of all the gruesome misunderstandings about matrimony the most sinister is that the partners "have to work on it". No doubt, because their social codes still discourage promiscuity while allowing frequent changes of marriage, the Americans tend to be conscientious workers in the marriage field. Like jogging, this has to be done regularly, and usually in public. There is also the spectre of progression. "Our marriage wasn't getting anywhere" is a complaint or an excuse often made by individuals or couples who have abandoned the previous arrangement and are preparing to embark on a second trial. But again, the essence of marriage is surely that it is both permanent and static: one of those things you can't do anything about. To consider doing something could mean that the whole thing may begin to come to pieces.

> 'The pains can be defined more easily than the pleasures'

Before the divorce laws, this permanence of "the knot there's no untying" was taken for granted: and there is a sense in which modern marriage can never really be marriage at all, because although it may be formalised it nonetheless remains a voluntary convenience. An excellent thing for practical purposes; the marriage state, however, does suggest something rather different.

It can begin by a meeting with fate — an obscure realisation that the moment of destiny has arrived. I first saw my wife as she laboriously pedalled an ancient bicycle past the college in north Oxford where I was living. It was a thoroughly nasty day, and she looked cold, depressed and preoccupied. None the less, Wagnerian trumpets seemed to sound and I could think of nothing but the absolute necessity of getting to know her as soon as possible. I found she was a philosophy don at the college next door. I was still virtually a student. She was six years older and quite uninterested in getting married, least of all to me.

A wedding did eventually take place, however; and after it I can recall very distinctly the strange relief of finding that my "fiancée" appeared to be quite different, seeming to take for granted that all the fuss was now over. From now on we should each do what we wanted to do, but in a different way. Our solitude, as it were, existed on a more friendly basis.

There was no need to do anything about this, to get to know each other inside marriage, to suppose or pretend a wish for more of the other's company. Politicians or business people who announce that they are giving something or other up to "spend more time with their wives and families" always sound singularly unconvincing, as if indeed, as Powell put it, they were failing to convey any true sense of reality. One may indeed want to be with someone — a wife or a husband — but to say that you do in public is always suspect.

Married intimacy is not only secretive but mainly a matter of humour. Probably the whole business is comic from the start, and recognition of this is one of its greatest and most beneficent relaxations. It is certainly a help to find each other funny, part of the healing process of what the Australian poet A. D. Hope subtly referred to as "moving closer and closer apart". He meant, I take it, the process by which the closeness of the partner becomes itself something to contemplate happily and comfortably from a distance, like a picture, a work of art or, indeed, a joke. If Othello and Desdemona, or Romeo and Juliet, had been able to have a good laugh, or see each other in the blessed light of humour and comedy, they would most likely not have come to a tragic end. Humour helps to displace sex, and gender, too, and without making these two basic and unalterable things frivolous, removes their implacable quality. An essential aspect of marriage can be to dissolve the difference between men and women: you no longer have to choose which to be.

Humour again is the solvent here, for its origins and response make no distinction between the sexes. Tolstoy's characters Vronsky and Anna Karenina are in some ways archetypal man and woman, but the difference is dissolved in a most touching way right at the end of the novel when Anna, on her way to the station to throw herself under a train, suddenly sees something funny which she thinks she will tell Vronsky. Then she realises she won't be seeing him again. It is a moment at which she — and we — suddenly realise, too late, that the now estranged and divided lovers still have a sense of humour in common.

My wife and I have always found *The Archers* extremely funny for some reason; and we share this sense of absurdity by describing episodes for each other, if one of us happens to have heard them and the other not. In this way even the pigs amuse us. Such a sharing can survive even the breakdowns caused by illness and old age. Mental deterioration may disturb the free-and-equal give-and-take of married intercourse. One partner may no longer be able to think or speak as he or she once did. But the tenderness of humour and of a joke survives even this deadening interruption of the old relationship. Never mind about "caring": the main thing in a marriage of senility is to retain, from the resources of its past, enough mutual understanding to produce and prolong a togetherness of jokes.

● *John Bayley and his wife Dame Iris Murdoch have been married for 40 years. She has recently been diagnosed as suffering from Alzheimer's disease*

NEW

Vitafood Knufinke

A life of commuting may leave your body's natural defences under siege.

Polluted air, cigarette smoke, even sunshine, all produce harmful chemical substances called 'free radicals', which can damage your body cells. A normal diet is usually sufficient to provide the protection you need. But if you lead a busy life, your diet may not be adequate and you may feel the need to supplement it.

Knufinke, one of Germany's most respected nutritionists, are now making their Beta-Carotene tablets, scientifically formulated with Selenium, Vitamin C and Vitamin E, available in the UK.

By providing important nutrients that your body might otherwise lack, they can help maintain your natural defences.

up to 60 days' supply £5.95 p&p.



Only available from Vitafood K Direct.

Dept BMS, Freepost (no stamp required), North Weald, Epping CM16 6BR (UK residents only)

CREDIT CARD ORDER LINE 01992 522 742

Lines open 9.00am-5.30pm Monday to Friday (24 hour answerphone)

Post to: Vitafood K Direct, Dept BMS, Freepost (no stamp required), North Weald, Epping CM16 6BR
Please send ☐ packs of Knufinke Beta-Carotene, Selenium, Vitamin C + E tablets.
I enclose payment of £5.95 per pack (plus £1.50 p&p for any size order) by cheque/postal order payable to Vitafood K Direct or debit my Visa / Access / Mastercard / Delta / Switch card. Please allow 14 days for delivery.
Card No ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry Date ☐☐☐☐ Switch/Delta Issue Number ☐☐☐
Name Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Signature
Address
Postcode Tel.
TVBC/001

For marital bliss open an account

MODELS OF MATRIMONY

It is 9pm, and your husband has just arrived home. He should have been back an hour ago. Do you accuse him of being selfish and inconsiderate, just like he always is? Or do you commiserate with him about the heavy workload his boss has just dumped on him, and offer him a stiff drink?

According to Frank Fincham, Professor of Psychology at the University of Wales, Cardiff, and the country's foremost academic authority on marital relationships, the explanation you choose for your spouse's behaviour can influence the future of your marriage. Professor Fincham calls the selfish explanation "conflict-promoting"; the workload explanation is "relationship-enhancing".

"I have conducted four studies which track couples over time, and all showed that the interpretations give rise later on to marital satisfaction or dissatisfaction.

"Unfortunately, there does not seem to be a checklist of what makes a happy marriage. In the Sixties, everyone thought good marriages were based on a 'tit-for-tat' model, where good deeds by one spouse were reciprocated by the other. That's simply not the case. Neither is a good marriage simply a mirror image of what makes a bad marriage. The best model for happy marriages is the bank account model, where a couple builds up an account of goodwill and behaviour, which each draws on from time to time.

"Tit-for-tat, or reciprocal behaviour, is actually a signature of a distressed marriage. Spouses get locked into a cycle of conflict, which escalates until one partner finds it unbearable and backs down. This pattern repeats itself because spouses learn it's a good tactic."



There is no checklist for a happy marriage

Professor Fincham also spotted something interesting while observing couples talking. The way they behaved towards each other seemed to happen too fast to be planned.

He explains: "There's a lot of cognitive processing that we are not aware of." As a result, he decided to investigate the way married people analyse their relationships. The simple study led him to "perhaps the most important finding of my career".

Participants were asked to give their reactions, by hitting a button, to 48 words. The list included evocative words such as ice-cream and death, but included four related to relationships: partner, spouse, wife or husband and the name of the participant's spouse. Their reactions were timed, and varied between half a second and one second.

Professor Fincham discovered a surprising connection between speed of reaction, and stability of marital satisfaction. Those with the fastest response seemed to have the most consistent level of marital satisfaction, whether they were happy or unhappy. Those with slower responses displayed the greatest swings in happiness.

"It's an amazing finding," Professor Fincham says. "We have attitudes to everything, including our partners, and upon meeting spouses, some people will access their judgments more readily, and therefore register faster responses. It indicates how close to the surface some attitudes are. Even differences of a few milliseconds counted."

Exactly why being faster on the button is linked to a more consistent level of marital happiness is unclear. But Professor Fincham has a few ideas. In very simple terms, those people who view their partners through rose-tinted spectacles will tend to interpret their partner's behaviour in this light. They take in little new information, and make an almost on-the-spot judgment. So, over time, they seem to be consistently satisfied.

Similarly, perhaps people who always have an uncharitable view of their spouse also tend to evaluate their partner's behaviour very quickly. As a result, they are consistently dissatisfied.

Slower respondents, whose emotions and attitudes are less instantly accessible, perhaps show a more malleable approach. That would allow them to interpret their partner's behaviour with less prejudice, and therefore experience greater swings in satisfaction levels.

Professor Fincham hopes to track how this accessibility varies over the course of a marriage. He has been awarded a grant of £144,000 by the Economic and Social Research Council, and is trying to recruit 200 pairs of newlyweds to assist; to date, 85 couples have stepped forward.

ANJANA AHUJA

● *Volunteers for the study can ring 01222 874932*

Fly Thai

Royal First Class to Bangkok
2 for the price of 1 ticket offer

Book a full-fare First Class Return ticket to Bangkok and you get a second ticket absolutely free. The only condition is that you and your companion travel outwards and return together on the same flight. You can travel on Thai's daily non-stop flights from London to Bangkok, your gateway for our services to 20 destinations throughout Thailand and all major destinations in the Far East and Australasia. And of course enjoy the spacious luxury of our First Class cabin and the Smooth as Silk service for which we're renowned.

For further details and reservations, contact your travel agent or call Thai direct on London 0171-499 9113 or Manchester 0161-831 7861

Thai Smooth as silk

For onward travel within Thailand and International travel from Bangkok normal airline fares will apply

'Regrets? — I've got hundreds'

Having come through the "lost years", Marianne Faithfull is back with a sell-out tour — but no answers to why her life turned out the way that it did. Interview by **Noreen Taylor**

I first met Marianne Faithfull in the late Seventies when she was married to her second husband, punk musician Ben Brierley. Reviews of her album *Broken English* had described her as a brilliant new discovery. It was so different from the previous decade when, as Mick Jagger's lady, both she and her hit, *As Tears Go By*, had been treated as inconsequential pop froth.

Both Marianne and Ben were staying in the pretty Buckinghamshire cottage Jagger had bought for her mother. They were heroin addicts. Flaky, fragmented, unkempt creatures, they were unable to concentrate on any topic for very long. After a couple of hours, the interview disintegrated into a rambling gabble.

Eventually I left, despairing for them, convinced "rock star in death overdose" headlines were only months away. I underestimated Marianne. When we met again last week, 17 years on, I reminded her of that first meeting. "Oh, you must tell me all about it. I'm sure I liked you."

The transformation has been extraordinary. Not only in her looks — bright-eyed, sleek, shining hair, black trouser suit, a present from Calvin Klein (Marianne has always had great contacts) — but in the efficiently crisp manner with which she conducts herself.

Only the voice remains the same: a theatrical husk, a tribute to years of brandy and cigarettes. Even her facial scars, a hangover from street life, have an edgy appeal. Compared to the broken rock babe persona of the lost decades, this reincarnation has, by comparison, an almost Thatcherite briskness.

"Pictures. Right! You want me outside, then let's get going. Neil, cigarettes, please dear," she asks the publicist. "Would you mind? Know I'm not going to last."

We are in one of the drawing rooms of a neo-Gothic pile, Braziers Park, near Reading, an educational establishment co-founded 50 years ago by her father, Glyn Faithfull, and where he now lives in retirement. Marianne is visiting him while on the European leg of her *An Evening in the Weimar Republic* concert tour. The show is a celebration of the music of Kurt Weill and the lyrics of Bertolt Brecht, both long-time passions of Marianne. It has been playing to sell-out audiences across America, and earning ecstatic reviews describing her as one of the finest interpreters of that rich musical heritage of the inter-war years.



Early days: Mick Jagger and Marianne Faithfull in 1967

I tell her she looks pleased and at peace with herself. "Well, I feel I'm finally doing what I was always supposed to do, except I didn't have that trust in life, so I resisted. I usually wake up happy these days, though not in a smug way."

Asked to describe herself, she opts for sensitive. "Deeply so, maybe drugs were the only way for me to cope." Regrets? "Hundreds, though I'm not eaten up by them. I try to stay in the here and now.

"If I hadn't wasted so many years, I'd probably be at the point I've reached now, anyway. Should I have taken the planned path, studied music at the Royal Academy, and sung Mozart for the last 20 years, I'd probably have discovered Weill and still be doing exactly what I am now. Instead I chose the empirical route . . . Oh Lord, I'm sorry." She breaks off for a moment, groaning, rubbing her forehead in irritation as though she can't face another question. "It's just that I feel so inadequate when it comes to explaining myself, my motives, my lost years, my mistakes, my addictions. I don't really have any answers you know.

> 'Maybe drugs were the only way for me to cope'

People think I must have after what I've been through, but I can't explain myself, or the circuitous journey I took. Sometimes, I quiver in fury at the waste, other times I believe I must have quite liked doing whatever I did. That I have a need for drama has never been in dispute, it's just that I'm unable to come up with reasons for what happened."

She obviously tried. I remind her of *Faithfull*, the autobiography published three years ago detailing a life that went from living with Jagger in Chelsea splendour to hanging out homeless on top of a Soho wall. "Oh, that book. It was too dark, made everything so traumatic and caused so many problems, especially with my son." Nicholas, 31, her only child, born when she was 19 and married to John Dunbar, is now father of a four-year-old son, Oscar.

"I mean Nicholas is just here in London doing his life, and my reminiscences were understandably too painful for him. And yes, of course I'm friendly with John, and Ben too, who is now clean and running an antique shop.

"Yes, I'm friends with Mick too. And why not? Sharing so much of your life with people you've loved, how can you not be friends? Drugs were my downfall, nothing to do with Mick, who I have a great respect for. Such a talented man, and still writing beautiful songs.

"A few weeks ago in New York he sent a limousine round to pick me up after my show. He wanted me to join him in a studio where he was recording with Charlie and Keith, and we just sat around for hours talking, drinking coffee, enjoying each other. I'm not competing with the Stones anymore you see, so it's cool. I'm out of that equation. In fact most of my audiences don't associate me with Mick and that period. They're too young for all those rock chick icon memories."

Arriving at the recent *Vanity Fair* Oscar night party, Marianne was met at the doorway by Bianca Jagger who insisted: "Mick's over there. You've got to go and talk to him."

The three share a history positively operatic with drama. Marianne's suicide attempt and drug habits finally closed her relationship with Jagger. He and Bianca parted after a most acrimonious divorce. Yet there they were huddled together for most of the evening.

Since 1985, after six months of treatment paid for by one of her saviours, Island Records, Marianne has lived mostly in Ireland, in the romantic Shell Cottage, part of the 1,000-acre Carton estate, west of Dublin.

"Shan't be living there anymore," she says. "Cost too much. So I'm going to do something I've never done in my life before. I'm going to buy a house, probably by the sea in Co Wicklow. Nothing extravagant, because I don't have lots of money, which is why I have to work so hard. Decorating a house, that'll be my latest joy."

What about love? Men? Had she resigned from those joys? "I used to have a terrible block about falling in love. I'd been hurt so many times that I couldn't allow myself to do so. Being pretty, I used to be so easily manipulated by flattery, then I decided to block it all off for a while. Safety, that's what I thought I wanted. Then you may as well be dead.

"I'm in love now, since you ask. Very much so, and no, I won't say who he is, although it's quite a big thing. Loving someone and being loved, couldn't do any of that when I was an addict. You see, when you're on drugs you're locked out of everything, including relationships. Your habit is the only thing that counts.

"Nowadays, I prefer the solitary life. I don't drive, I live in the Irish countryside, so I'd have to have found some measure of peace. I feel completely at home in Ireland, accepted, part of the rhythm. There are too many ghosts in London. I'd feel haunted living there, although I love popping across to see friends, and of course my grandson."

Still a smoker, does she miss drink? "I have the occasional glass of champagne and there are times when only a gin and tonic will do, but no I don't miss any of it. Doctors can't believe how healthy I am. I have to be careful though, I'm always going to have to watch it. Going to bed straight after a show with a bowl of cornflakes and a book is what I do now.

"When I was young I could stay up for four nights and still look wonderful. Not any more. Can't think of anything that would make me stay up all night now. Apart from . . . oh, all right then, the right man might make me stay up all night."

Gales of bawdy laughter follow, reminding you the raver has not been completely eclipsed by the woman, however resolute and business-like she may appear.

"Please, I have an aversion to the born-again supposition," she pleads. "I prefer the cooler language of regeneration. Coming back to myself is what I've succeeded in doing. During the last two years of my mother's life when I was clean, I don't think she liked me quite as much. Too straight. I used to tell her that finally she was getting all of me.

"That's what I've ended up with. Nonetheless, I would never dare go around crying victory. To me that would be the greatest folly of all."

● *Marianne Faithfull will be performing* An Evening at the Weimar Republic *at the Bloomsbury Theatre, London, from tomorrow until Saturday*

PETER NICHOLLS



The transformation from the rock babe of the lost decades has been extraordinary. Only the voice remains the same

Travel as many times as you like from £59.95 a year.

Take out American Express annual travel insurance and you can make £59.95 go a long way. Because one payment means you can take an unlimited number of trips throughout the year.

And now you don't have to be an American Express Cardmember to enjoy this extra security.

Example Travel Insurance Rates

	Individual Under 65's	Family 2 adults & 2 children
Single trip cover. Europe up to 17 days.	£23.45	£58.55
European annual cover. Up to 31 days per trip.	£59.95	£99.95
Worldwide annual cover. Up to 91 days per trip.	£94.95	£144.95

Annual cover includes 17 days winter sports cover, saving you around £53. Rates are available for those aged over 65 years.

To enrol, call the number below between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday or 9am to 5pm on Saturday quoting reference TK30.

0800 700 737

Certain exclusions and eligibility limitations apply. Policy Terms and Conditions are available on request. American Express Services Europe Limited is an independent intermediary governed by the AIB code of conduct.

American Express Insurance Services

VOLVO OWNERS COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FROM **£120**

Extra Safety = Lower Insurance
Low Cost Schemes for Volvos

Tel: 0117 929 4971 NOW!

or Phone your Nearest Branch at the Local Rate on

0345 123111

Ask for a quote on the Internet: http://www.hhh.co.uk

Hill House Hammond

Over 250 Branches Nationwide

WITH DISCOUNT RATES LIKE THESE WE'RE STREETS AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION!

FROM **1.98%** (APR **2.0%**) 1 YEAR

FROM **3.70%** (APR **4.0%**) 2 YEAR

FROM **4.79%** (APR **5.2%**) 3 YEAR

FROM **5.54%** (APR **6.0%**) 5 YEAR

FirstMortgage use a panel of lenders whose mortgages are subject to status and security. The APR is based on a typical example of a repayment loan of £45,000 for a house purchase of £60,000 for a loan term of 25 years with a variable rate of interest of 5.54% until 1 June 2002 and thereafter at the equivalent variable rate (assumed to be 5.54% for the life of the mortgage). Loan to be repaid after 300 monthly payments of £280.65 (£262.50 net of MIRAS on £30,000 at 15%). Total amount payable £84,855 including a FirstMortgage application fee of £295, a valuation fee of £165, all inclusive of VAT. Details of the redemption fee after the discounted rate period are available on request. Rates correct at time of going to press. For written quotations write to FirstMortgage, Regal House, Twickenham, TW1 3QD. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Just one quick call to arrange your mortgage on

0800 0800 88

TI002

FirstMortgage the direct choice

Major is just not up to the job

Anatole Kaletsky on the Tories' catalogue of farces and fiascos

When John Major has to make an important decision, he allegedly takes a blank sheet of paper, draws a line down the middle and lists all the pros and cons on either side. In the last full week of campaigning before the election, it seems appropriate to treat Mr Major the same way. The process is hard to encapsulate in a single article, and every voter's judgment must remain his or her own. Why then am I about to "break the habit of a lifetime *by discussing my voting intention*", as Simon Jenkins wrote on this page last week? Partly, no doubt, because I hope to persuade some readers to agree with me.

The main point of doing this is to explore the central mystery of this election and, indeed, of everything that has happened in British politics over the past few years. There are plenty of reasons why Labour may be elected, not least the vague desire for a change of political scenery after 18 years. But could such inchoate restlessness be enough to impel the greatest electoral landslide for 50 years? Is it why Tony Blair may end up with a bigger majority than Margaret Thatcher or Clement Attlee ever enjoyed?

The answer must surely be no. But even supposing that people are lying to the pollsters, why are they lying in unprecedented numbers? Why are they so embarrassed to support the Tories? What has the Government done to earn such contempt? People are not starving in the streets. The country has not been defeated in war, *pace* the Eurosceptics. The economy may not be performing brilliantly, but it is certainly doing no worse than five years ago. So what is going on?

> This is the least electable Government for 50 years

Let us return to Mr Major's blank sheet of paper. On the credit side of the ledger there are numerous worthy achievements to his name: defeating inflation, running a sensible economic policy after Britain left the exchange-rate mechanism, expanding higher education, improving some public services (even while others have been allowed to crumble), steering a pragmatic middle course in relations with Europe, and so on. Most of these achievements would probably be maintained if the Tories were re-elected, despite the infighting and political chaos that would doubtless ensue. On the debit side of the ledger there are major strands of policy which would motivate me, for one, to vote against — the mismanagement of macroeconomics before White Wednesday, the disregard for the public interest in the environment and transport, the total indifference to the widening gap between rich and poor.

I could, of course, add many more policies to both sides of this account. But no listing of policies that I could imagine would be so uneven on the two sides of the ledger as to explain why Mr Major's Government has become the least electable in 50 years. To do that, we must add items of a different kind to the list. A government is elected not merely to implement the policies it advertised in its manifesto. Policies, on the whole, are invented by boffins and implemented by civil servants. Politicians must, of course, set priorities, but their most important and challenging task, especially in a period of ideological consensus, is not to put forward programmes, but to deal with the unexpected. "Events, old boy, events," as Macmillan famously replied when asked to describe *the greatest challenge that any* prime minister faced.

The chief executive of a reasonably stable and successful company is usually selected not because of the new corporate strategy he proposes but, rather, on his record of competent management, of appointing and promoting the right people and of reacting to unexpected opportunities and threats.

It is when we come to the random and unpredictable events that have buffeted Mr Major that the two sides of the ledger show a tragicomic asymmetry. The Danish referendum, White Wednesday, the Maastricht paving debate, the Mellor scandal, the sacking of Norman Lamont, the "back to basics" fiasco, the election of Jacques Santer, the mad cow crisis, the "whipless" Tory rebellion, the bungled Cabinet reshuffles, the Scott report, the scandals over the Child Support Agency and the management of prisons, the endless aborted relaunches and impotent assertions of authority, right down to the latest fiascos over Neil Hamilton and free votes on European monetary union — the catalogue of tactical errors, misjudgments, confusion and pathetically ineffectual leadership just goes on and on.

None of these farces and fiascos on its own could explain the public contempt for John Major's Government. But putting them all together shows a pattern of unrelieved incompetence the like of which has rarely been seen before.

While there have been many governments whose deliberate policies have produced worse results for the British people than have Mr Major's, there has never been a government as helpless and incompetent as this one in responding to unexpected pressures and in managing the nation's political affairs from day to day. That, I suspect, is why voters have turned against the Tories in such numbers.

Mr Major is a charming and affable person, who is understandably liked by the voters. But the voters have also realised he is simply incapable of being Prime Minister. If he cannot run the 350 Tory MPs, how on earth can he hope to run the country? Whether Tony Blair will prove a capable Prime Minister is another matter; no one has ever claimed that democracy is a foolproof system for guaranteeing good governments. What democracy can — and must — do is eject a government that is clearly not up to the job.



Donors, duty, dread

One sister has leukaemia; the other has the right bone marrow but fears hospitals

Libby Purves

The headline said "Sentenced to die by my sister", and beside it was a blurred picture of two pretty girls in happier days. "A mother is facing death from leukaemia because her sister refuses to donate her bone marrow."

Worse, it was true. Mrs Angela Latham of Blackpool is precariously kept alive by drugs; her bone marrow type is rare and her sister Susan is the only perfect match. Transplantation would have a 60 per cent chance of success. But as the hospital record economically puts it, "It is unfortunate that her sister does not like hospitals". Susan Squires came close to donating, but withdrew out of fear. After a period of family estrangement, the patient, Mrs Latham, chose "to try one last throw of the dice" by deliberately making the story public.

So this is not a case of press intrusion, although there is something excruciating in the exposure of details such as the sick woman's young son going round to plead with his Auntie Sue. The family has painfully invaded its own privacy — but it may have worked. The next day we were told that Miss Squires is thinking again, particularly as it now transpires that she might not need to go into hospital. One might ask why the doctors originally concerned in this case could not have suggested this without involving us media vultures, but never mind. There may yet be a happy outcome; and if so the staring, blaring press will have played some part.

This will be even more valuable if it makes us reflect how thin is the veneer of casual everyday acceptance in such matters. It is easy to think otherwise: blood donors are taken for granted and barely thanked — indeed, the nation is gruffly told off when supplies run low. Placentas are sold for medical use without anybody even mentioning it to mothers, and every week's news brings a fresh miracle, from donor ova to sections of liver which re-grow in a new body.

Hardly an eyebrow was raised when Nicola Horlick, in the flurry of interviews when she became a wronged celebrity supermother, said that one reason she went on having children was in the hope of producing a perfect marrow donor match for her eldest. There is a vague consensus that any decent person, adult or child, would willingly hand over any dispensable part of his or her body to save a life. And of course, many do. There is a large bank of bone-marrow donors, acting out of pure altruism towards strangers.

We determinedly focus on the bright scientific veneer and suppress the old primitive horrors of hospitals and passivity, white coats and needles and knives and anaesthetics. Doctors can be downright impatient with anybody who dreads them, so it was heartening to read the compassionate letter to *The Times* yesterday from Professor Ian Franklin, a consultant in the bone-marrow transplant unit at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. He boldly spoke up for the "reasonable fears and anxieties" of poor Susan Squires, and robustly said that "it would be inappropriate to make light of the general anaesthetic and post-operative pain that marrow donors must endure". Donors, he says, should be counselled by an independent but knowledgeable doctor.

Poor Miss Squires. Such respect and protection was stripped from her by the ineptitude which led to the leukaemia victim, her sister, belittling her fears as "aches and pains", and throwing doubt on her sanity, while her brother-in-law mused aloud about whether a large bribe would change her mind. Their expressed harshness is understandable, because a diagnosis as serious as leukaemia throws whole families into a warlike survival mode in which they would dare or endure anything. This can make them very angry with anybody less burningly committed. Usually their target is the hospital which seems to be withholding expensive treatment, or the cautious doctor who won't put patients in for an untried drug. In the Blackpool case, the target was a scared sister, and it seems that there are few NHS systems or instincts to defuse such conflict. Why else did it take a press splash for the poor woman to be informed that she could give the stuff at home?

Hospital-phobia and operation-phobia are real enough. There are mothers who ask to die rather than undergo Caesareans, women who adopt children rather than endure childbirth, and people who prefer appalling pain to skilful dentistry. The roots of the terror may lie in childhood, in timidity, stupidity, even history. It is not so very long since hospitals were grim and dangerous places. One of my own elderly relatives, drawing on her own parents' Victorian dreads, still besmirches the reputation of this scientific age by pointing to hospitals and intoning "Them as goes in there — they never come out". When I was to give birth, she observed darkly that she had thought of me as she bought her remembrance poppy: the connection between the carnage of Mons and the plate-glass façade of the maternity hospital was obvious, to her. These things linger on. If you are afraid of hospitals it may not be reasonable but it is perfectly explicable. Hospital revulsion is just the flip side of the hospital fascination which fuels all those TV dramas.

Donation and transplantation give another turn to the screw. It is hard enough to have one of those conditions where you go into hospital feeling healthy and are made to feel ill; even harder to submit to "procedures" when neither the illness nor the cure is your own. Those who do it, for either family or strangers, should be given more credit. But if we are to honour the courage of those who lie down and donate, whether in the small matter of blood or the large matter of kidneys, we have to admit how much self-discipline and counter-intuitive faith it takes, even in those who are not phobic.

This is an unpopular thing to do. A few years ago *Coronation Street* had a rattling good plot going in which Tracey, the bratty teenage daughter of Deirdre Rashid, took a bad party drug and ended up with total kidney failure. By soap-operatic chance, the only possible donor was her mother's new husband, a nice Moroccan boy called Samir to whom Tracey had been consistently foul. It was leaked in advance that Samir would agree to give a kidney, and would die in the process, with pleasingly dramatic effects on the relationship between widowed mother and cured daughter.

There was discreet uproar: donor organisations and the medical profession protested that this was unlikely, and that such a plot would set their cause back years. The milder proposal that Samir die of "a rare allergy to the anaesthetic" was found equally deplorable, so the programme backed off and had him murdered on his way to hospital. The programme-makers do not use the word "pressure" to describe what they experienced, but pressure is all around. Medical science presses us to accept blithely operations and interventions which even a few decades ago would have been terrifying to contemplate.

We are taught to have our children's teeth straightened (even, sometimes, jaws reset) for purely aesthetic reasons; to make light of the cutting and pinning of cosmetic surgery, and to consider Caesarean birth as an "option" rather than a last resort. One American clinic famously advertised it as a way "to keep your tubes honeymoon fresh". We are told about women who donate ova as if they were handing over Danish pastries, not undergoing powerful hormonal treatment and invasive surgery. The other day our local news told us of a woman who found an egg donor by putting an advertisement in the newsagent's window.

Thus yesterday's unthinkable becomes today's orthodoxy: so when a young woman so phobic about hospitals that she can't even visit one feels unable to spend two days there and have a tube put in her bone, she is held up to national contumely as the woman who "signed her sister's death-warrant". Unnatural, unfair.

Re-reading this, I see that I shall be vilified for encouraging stupid fears. Never mind. It is not healthy to let any fear stalk about in disguise ashamed to speak its name. You have to see the enemy to fight it, and we may as well. After all, the one sure thing is that before long someone will find a new bit of us that can help the sick. The finger points. It could be a bit of you.

Politics as an end in itself

Roger Scruton on a new ruling class of Labour activists

New Labour came into being *because old Labour was* feared. You don't win elections by frightening people. Labour's manifesto should be read as a sequence of recantations, each designed to allay one of the anxieties which cost Neil Kinnock the last election. And there is something admirable in the way that Tony Blair has made this *via negativa* into a shining promise. But the Labour leadership should be sharply distinguished from the Parliamentary Labour Party. It is the tenor and composition of the party that causes me to think that Labour is still the greater of the evils between which we must shortly choose.

I adhere to an old-fashioned, some would say superannuated, Tory vision. My ideal government is one without ideals, a cheerful but disenchanted government which respects people's independence and assumes that they bear ultimate responsibility for their lives. Politics, to my thinking, ought not to be organised around a social programme, or any programme not implicit in the idea of government itself. Politics exists in order that the competing interests of the people can be brokered and resolved. Its purpose is neither business nor social engineering, but the maintenance of social equilibrium and the defence of the realm.

Members of Parliament should not begin their careers in politics, but should come to politics from some other walk of life, and in a spirit of exasperation. They should regard legislation as a painstaking procedure, and a solution of last resort to conflicts that ought if possible to be settled by other means. The greatest defects in a Member of Parliament are therefore not those which capture the attention of the tabloids: the human weaknesses which they share with the rest of us and which, when all is said and done, make them into our fit representatives. Their greatest defects are the two which arise from professional politics itself: meddlesomeness and half-education.

My ideal party is not fired by the ambition to reform institutions, but by a desire to conserve them, while recognising, with Edmund Burke, the need to "reform in order to conserve". It does not tinker with things long established and rarely complained of, knowing that it is always easier to destroy than to create. It contains educated people, but erects barriers against the half-educated — those hyperactive intellects who know enough to ask questions but not enough to understand that the real questions are unanswerable. It is suspicious of nothing so much as the political process itself, and seeks to confine politics to the areas where wise decisions can be taken in no other way — issues of law and order, defence and the national interest. It believes in a strong State, but a State above politics, guardian of civil society against external and internal threat. It is founded on the belief that society renews itself from below, from the enterprise and goodwill of its members, and not from above, by transferring income from the prudent and the diligent to those least likely to invest it.

Judged by that venerable ideal, new Labour remains seriously defective. Its parliamentary intake abounds in the meddlesome and the half-educated: people for whom discontent and agitation have been a way of life, who have made their careers in politics and whose greatest successes have involved the coercing of others. It remains the natural friend of bureaucracies, and its more vociferous members remain committed to using schools as instruments of social engineering, rather than making them reservoirs of knowledge. It has no rooted objection to legislation imposed on us by the European Union, and little appreciation of the fact that our national sovereignty is bound up with the workings of the common law, and is inherently threatened by the Napoleonic jurisdiction that prevails in Europe. Its proposals for constitutional reform are a means to create jobs for the political professionals, while the removal of voting rights from peers who are not political appointees will finally extinguish the voice of the amateur in the legislative process.

New Labour seems happy with the worst of the Tories' innovations — including the National Curriculum and the National Lottery. If it rises above the philistinism of the managerial Conservative, this is only because it remains suspicious of business, being composed of people who have enjoyed a free ride on the back of the State. Like managerial Tories, it sees loyalty as a purchasable commodity rather than an inherited duty, and the sublime conception of the Crown as the living symbol of our unity means little or nothing to its members.

None of this is to doubt the good faith of new Labour or its leaders. But the party speaks for the class that is governing everywhere in Europe: the class of political professionals whose function is to mediate between transnational and local bureaucracies, and which justifies its existence through constant legislation and irrational reforms. I am persuaded that the Tory party, for all its faults, remains our best hope that this class will not gain the monopoly over politics that it has achieved across the Channel.

Skint reward

DEEPLY in debt and now panicking, the Oxford Union Society is paying the price for years of mismanagement by undergraduates and naked publicity seeking. Reports have the Union's debts reaching as high as £80,000.

"We're a student society and occasionally things may happen that are of a regrettable nature," says Oliver Evans, the current president. "This happens in all societies." Not all societies, however, accede to a demand from Diego Maradona, the Argentine footballer, to be flown to Britain with family and retinue on Concorde, as the Union did in 1995.

"The cash crashdown was due to the Union being run by inexperienced 19 and 20-year-olds, insisting it *prided itself on being run by students* and that expert help was always at hand," says Evans. "The exact amount of the debt is a matter for a standing committee."

A series of publicity japes, such as inviting O.J. Simpson and Page Three girls to speak, has dragged the Union dangerously into Max Clifford territory.

"They are unlikely to get anything like the £1 million the Union got from Mitsubishi in 1988," says one former president, "simply because they insist on filling the place with lascivious anoraks rather than decent debaters."

● *My prize for the most deconstructed political comment of the general election goes to a man parading up and down Putney High Street, the heart of David Mellor's constituency, pushing a wheelbarrow. In it is a large plastic toe.*

Around his neck hangs a sign: "Mellor Sucks".



"But these sprouts taste just like sprouts"

THE TIMES DIARY

Liver boys

WHILE his correspondents were traipsing after politicians at the weekend, John Birt, the Director-General of the BBC, was going back to his Liverpool roots on a trip to Paul McCartney's former home.

The mid-terrace former council house in Forthlin Road was bought by the National Trust after Birt — a Beatles nut and Cavern Club regular — discovered that it was for sale two years ago and tipped them off.

On Saturday, he achieved a lifelong ambition when he set foot in the small dishevelled room where John, Paul and George first played together to the fury of the neighbours. Birt, who once stood in as the bouncer in a Beatles gig, is advising on the imminent restoration of the house, and is drawing heavily for his information on his Scouser friend Sir Paul McCartney.

Huffin' and

LITERARY sorts are fluttering with excitement about the sale next month of one of the most important post-war archives from the world of children's publishing. All the books and author correspondence of Kaye Webb, the longstanding Puffin Books editor and formidable creator of the Puffin Club, are to be auctioned by Sotheby's.



Birt in Beatling days

Letters from a huge portfolio of authors, artists and others come with the archive. James Mason, on whether he would be a reliable godparent; Max Beerbohm apologising for having mistaken Kaye for a man; Roald Dahl on the fear of never being asked to sign books — and many others, including letters from Yehudi Menuhin, Peggy Ashcroft, Laurens van der Post and Laurie Lee.

● *After seeing the extensive graphic of Labour's Millbank campaign headquarters in this newspaper yesterday, Alistair Campbell, Blair's press secretary, was on the prowl. "They made out I only had one desk," he told anyone in earshot. "Actually I've got two desks." Hence his new epithet: "Two-desks" Campbell.*

Scroll up

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan's uncle once tried to set up the illegal sale of the most important of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Temple Scroll, to the American government. According to recently declassified Foreign Office documents, the late Sharif Nasser, a man said to have had a finger in every felafel in the Middle East, approached the US Ambassador in Amman, Sheldon Mills, with his dodgy deal.



Nasser: scroll-grabber

Mills wrote that Sharif asked "if I would be interested in buying for America an antiquity now in the hands of his Bedouin friends, which from his description could not be anything but another Dead Sea Scroll."

Mills felt it his duty to report Nasser's treachery to his nephew the King, but did so in the most diplomatic terms. The British Ambassador was blunter in his report to London, saying Sharif was a habitual and well-known scroll-grabber.

P·H·S

DEMOCRACY'S DOUBLE

Why good Unionists should vote for Hendron and Forsyth

Elections are often exercises in habit. Two very different events yesterday provided good reason for certain voters to climb out of their traditional trenches and vote for two very different MPs. *The Times* throughout this election has singled out candidates who face difficult futures but deserve bright ones and that is particularly true of two politicians fighting far away from the metropolitan spotlight.

The disruption and inconvenience experienced across the metropolis yesterday will have been an uncomfortable reminder for many of the price to be paid for democracy. Difficult as it is to maintain a sense of perspective when the horizon is obscured by a motionless convoy, it is worth remembering that the alternative, capitulation to violence, is unthinkable. It is poor consolation, but a necessary corrective to also bear in mind that the difficulties endured in the Home Counties yesterday are experienced in Ulster on all too many days.

Northern Ireland has had to learn to live with the arbitrary terror of the IRA over the last 25 years. In spite of provocation, and blackmail, the overwhelming majority of the Province's people have taken the biggest of all risks for peace and consistently supported politicians who refuse to compromise their commitment to democracy. There are signs, however, that some nationalist voters who have always supported the Social Democratic and Labour Party in its implacable opposition to coercion may be tempted to support Sinn Fein at this election. Voters should not be tempted to give the republicans the benefit of the doubt. There is no doubt. As the Taoiseach, John Bruton, explained unambiguously, a vote for Sinn Fein is a vote for violence.

Sinn Fein hopes to secure three seats, West Belfast, West Tyrone and Mid-Ulster. In Mid-Ulster and West Tyrone it is simply sufficient for voters to shun Sinn Fein. The situation is very different, however, in West Belfast. The UUP have put up a candidate on the quite honourable basis that every citizen of Ulster should have a right to vote for the Union. Yet, if the unionist community of West Belfast vote for the UUP they may find that democracy and the Union are the losers. A victory for Gerry Adams would provide a platform, and a veneer of legitimacy, for the apologist-in-chief for a campaign of murder.

Unionists should be prepared to show solidarity in West Belfast with their nationalist neighbours who have bravely resisted republican intimidation and still support the SDLP. It will take courage to cast votes for a party whose ultimate aim is Irish unity. The SDLP candidate in West Belfast, Dr Joe Hendron, has however always elevated the process, democracy, above any policy. A courageous constituency member who has acted as a check on those elements in his own party inclined to overlook the real nature of republicanism richly deserves re-election. If the nationalists and unionists of West Belfast can agree to unite behind him and reject republicanism then they can set an example for the rest of the Province.

There is one other constituency in Britain where the stakes are less high but voters should, nevertheless, consider setting aside other loyalties and uniting behind one MP in the interests of the Union and democracy. Lady Thatcher's visit to Stirling yesterday drew the attention of the UK media to the Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth. Although it was his adherence to the Lady which earned him early notoriety, Mr Forsyth has proved himself the most imaginative Scottish Secretary since Tom Johnston in the Forties. Were he to lose, the nation's future would be debated without one of its most intellectually impressive Unionist voices. His presence will be needed in the next Parliament more than ever if Labour introduce their flawed devolution scheme; he can help to ensure that it does not become a springboard to separation. Those many Labour voters in Stirling who do not want to see the unity of the kingdom endangered should vote for Mr Forysth as insurance. Although he and Mr Hendron are, in every respect, many miles apart they deserve to be sitting together in the next House of Commons.

ESCAPE FORWARDS

Netanyahu needs to recapture the political initiative

What has been described as Israel's "Watergate" now appears more akin to the Iran-Contra drama. Binyamin Netanyahu has escaped prosecution for his role in the Bar-On scandal but seen his political authority severely weakened. The Attorney-General's office decided that, although the conduct of those concerned had been dubious, it would prove impossible to separate the criminal and political aspects of the affair. The conclusion, rightly reached, was that the Prime Minister should not be indicted, and in effect ejected, in such circumstances.

Mr Netanyahu survives but the condition of his coalition is far from healthy. His internal rivals within Likud itself may now leave the Government. The backing of both the Yisrael Baaliya party and The Third Way party has been severely tested. For the moment, it appears that they will stick with the Prime Minister but Mr Netanyahu cannot be sure of their long-term loyalty. Ironically, the Shas movement, whose leader, Aryeh Deri, triggered this sorry tale, has been left holding the balance of power.

All of his coalition partners will demand a high price for their continued participation. Mr Netanyahu has already conceded that future appointments to senior civil service posts will be determined by a committee of ministers rather than remain the preserve of the Prime Minister. This represents the first step in the erosion of the presidential style that Mr Netanyahu had introduced after his election victory last May. Despite the personal mandate that this contest provided, he will have to behave in the more collegial manner of his predecessors.

The real cost, however, may be in Mr Netanyahu's relations with the Labour Party. In recent weeks the Prime Minister has publicly played with the option of a national unity administration. It is doubtful whether he really sought such a settlement at least while Shimon Peres remained as Labour leader. Nevertheless, the threat to his troublesome right-wing allies was clear. The bitter rhetoric of the last week has made an arrangement with the opposition impossible. That self-evident fact further strengthens the stranglehold of small factions such as Shas. Ehud Barak, the favourite to succeed Mr Peres this summer, may be the final beneficiary of the Bar-On debacle.

Mr Netanyahu now faces a very significant dilemma. He must seize the political initiative and place this scandal behind him. The most obvious means is by reactivating the stalled peace process. While in Washington he outlined his plans for an "escape forwards" from the present impasse. That would involve an immediate move towards final status discussions with the Palestinians. This remains his best prospect for asserting command over events. But neither Yassir Arafat nor President Clinton will endorse such an approach unless the Prime Minister outlines some sense of the concessions he might offer. That will be much more difficult in his new domestic situation.

Despite that, the Prime Minister should escape forwards. The Labour Party will be occupied by internal issues over the next few months. It cannot credibly criticise peace overtures. Coalition members may prove extremely awkward. It is unlikely, however, that Shas would welcome an early encounter with the electorate. Mr Netanyahu first won office as the candidate who stood for peace with security. If he can deliver that combination then his moral standing and political status could be recaptured.

EAT UP YOUR CHOCOLATES

Cordon noir cookery could encourage the taste for cordon bleu

Since carrot cake is now judged more nutritionally correct than conventionally "naughty but nice" cakes, there should be no dietary reason for gagging at chocolate-flavoured baby carrots. But the tastebuds have oxymorons just as the language has. At first gulp the notion of sweetcorn flavoured with peanut butter takes courage to swallow.

The giant frozen-food firm that is introducing these camouflaged foods hopes to persuade children to eat more vegetables. This might reduce some forms of cancer. It could also help parents over one of the little battlefields of childhood. Since frozen peas already do not taste like fresh peas, no natural authenticity is lost by making them taste of baked beans. In any case, baked beans taste of tomato ketchup, not of any recognisable garden bean. Potato crisps are already popular in artificial flavours that retain not the faintest whisper of potato.

Food purists may grumble that all that young mothers today have learnt how to do is to defrost frozen food: "Why can they not learn to open tins as their mothers used to do?" But cooking has always been a form of subterfuge and persuasion. What were garlic and vinegar, pepper and sugar invented for other than to disguise the natural tastelessness of raw foods such as snails, squid and the flaccid lettuce? Even for many who are no longer children, the best way to serve broccoli is still to somebody else.

This struggle to persuade children to eat up their greens has been going on down the ages, ever since starvation ceased to be endemic in the western world. Eating or refusing to eat is one of the child's first declarations of independence and first acts of blackmail. Chocolate carrots are only the latest course in an ancient *à la carte* menu. They are just the latest device to encourage the infant palate to form its own tastes.

Modern marketing has multiplied the choices ten thousandfold from the old nursery bread-and-milk slops, recycled mince and overcooked cabbage. Strawberries and other old seasonal treats are now available all the year round. And not many children of this modern frozen-food cornucopia believe that fish are caught with oblong fingers, or that a chicken is multi-footed and comes naturally frozen with 16 drumsticks and a sack of Kiev sauce.

Provided they do not drive out carrot-flavoured carrots, chocolate carrots are an interesting addition to the huge choice now available in western supermarkets. And they may tempt the childish tooth on to more grown-up mixed eating such as lobster thermidor, paella, Bombay duck and Welsh rabbit. These will also be more expensive.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Plea to preserve British fish quotas

From Captain Jim Portus

Sir, Before your readers condemn British fishermen for selling British fish quotas (leading article, April 15; letters, April 17) they should know the full facts.

There are 160 Anglo-Spanish and Anglo-Dutch vessels taking £100 million of fish each year for the benefit of the fishing communities in Spain and Holland.

There are 10,000 British fishing vessels taking £550 million of fish each year for the benefit of our fishing communities. In other words, the foreign vessels are huge and ultra-efficient and can exhaust the fish quota much more rapidly, so elbowing out the smaller vessels.

Ninety of their vessels were given their licences to fish by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) and were not bought from British fishermen. Most of the remainder bought licences from the owners of small inefficient vessels and were allowed by MAFF to transfer them to the much larger vessels. Those British fishermen who remain complain that MAFF allowed this to happen.

The problem can only be dealt with by changing the Treaty of Rome by means of a protocol at the intergovernmental conference in June, as proposed by John Major's administration (report, April 15).

When the quota-hopper fleet of 160 vessels (2 per cent by number but 26 per cent by tonnage) is eliminated from the UK register the British fish quotas will be reserved for the communities for whom they were intended. Until then not one more British boat should be broken up nor one more British fisherman's job lost in the name of the common fisheries policy.

Yours *faithfully*,
JIM PORTUS
(Chief Executive, South Western Fish Producer Organisation),
Home Orchard,
Honeywell Lane, Ilsington, Devon.
April 18.

Cash for Eurosceptics

From Mr Paul Sykes

Sir, There is no truth in the suggestion that my offer to help fund the election expenses of Conservative parliamentary candidates is being "master-minded" from the offices of the *Conservative 2000 Foundation* (report, April 18).

I have, for many years, supported the campaigns of Conservative candidates in the Yorkshire area. It was my decision to extend this support on a nationwide basis. In doing so I was responding to the national debate on Britain's relations with Europe and the need to make a principled stand on the single currency — a project which I view as damaging to the prosperity, stability and independence of our country.

The response has been overwhelming. We now know that the only way to stop Britain being entangled in the coils of this dangerous scheme is by voting Conservative on May 1.

Readers of your report could draw the further inference that my offer is in some way related to the issue of the leadership of the Conservative Party. This is entirely false. Indeed, I regard all such speculation as harmful to the Conservative Party. I believe that we can and will win under John Major on May 1.

That is what I am fighting for. That is what the 232 candidates whom I have helped are fighting for. That is the way to keep the pound and defend our country.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL SYKES,
2 The Esplanade,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.
April 21.

Just fancy that

From Miss Susan E. Jones

Sir, I wouldn't dream of suggesting that Mr Arthur Bell's "Major is wonderful, new Labour ghastly" diatribe (letter, April 14) was anything but a totally objective account. Readers might, however, be interested to know that the address of the publication from which he writes, the *Small Business News*, is also that of the Surrey Heath Conservative Association's Windlesham HQ.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN E. JONES
(Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Surrey Heath),
4 Cairn Close, Camberley, Surrey.
April 15.

London bomb alerts

From Mr G. S. J. Lankenau

Sir, Judging from this morning's security alerts, the IRA seems to think that Britain's railways are important; which is more than can be said for the politicians in this election.

No doubt our car-mad society thinks that such interest shows how out of touch the IRA is, since evidently no one else cares what happens to the railways either.

Yours sincerely,
G. LANKENAU,
Minafon Number Two,
Rhos-y-Gwaliau, Bala, Gwynedd.
April 21.

Prince's choice on conference centre

From Mr Alan Beckett, FRICS

Sir, I was pleased to read that the Orchard Room, the conference centre commissioned by the Prince of Wales for his Highgrove estate (report and picture, April 16), has been designed by a fellow chartered building surveyor, who was recommended by one of the Prince's advisers.

For too long the title "architect" has been protected. Mr Charles Morris and I, with many other chartered building surveyors, have tried to explain to clients that we also practise as designers of buildings, although we are not allowed to call ourselves architects. Perhaps now others will follow the Prince's lead.

The two most important questions are, does the new design satisfy all the client's requirements, and does the building work? I think the answers to both questions would be an emphatic yes. Architects are not the only professionals who can appreciate or produce good design; many of the great designers have been surveyors, Wren for one.

Perhaps now we can look forward to the demise of the Architects Registration Council and the removal of legal protection from the title "architect".

Yours sincerely,
A. BECKETT
(Director, Building Consultancy Division),
Waters & Co,
25 Queen Anne Street, W1.
April 18.

From Squadron Leader W. H. C. Hoare, RAF

Sir, Your report on the architectural establishment's reaction to the design selected by the Prince of Wales confirms my view that many members of the profession are more concerned about designing buildings which attract attention and satisfy their egos than those which are in harmony with their environment and are attractive to those who live or work in them.

The Prince has shown a typical disregard of these self-opinionated connoisseurs by commissioning a building which fits into its surroundings, in spite of the predictable denigration. I find the analogy between Tesco stores and Wimpey homes with "Arts and Crafts" buildings ironic. Whilst the former no doubt try to ape the appearance of traditional buildings, I suspect that the Orchard Room will be built using traditional materials and techniques to a quality which is not apparent in the stores and modern commercially-built houses on developments around the country.

There is clearly a place for well-designed modern; however, designers should be encouraged to create buildings which blend into their settings and are built to a high standard with the attention to detail which will result in lasting monuments.

Yours faithfully,
C. HOARE,
The Gate House,
Coopersale, Epping, Essex.
April 18.

Licensing law

From the Chairman of the Campaign for Real Ale and others

Sir, The time has come for a new liquor licensing Act. The current legislation has been amended over more than three decades, but its defects are increasingly apparent.

Licensing fails to address the needs and preferences of today's consumers. The Act looks back to the First World War and fear of drunken munitions workers, rather than forward to a new millennium. There is a patronising presumption that consumers cannot be trusted to make their own decisions.

The licensing system is costly and cumbersome to administer. There is confusion and overlap between different functions and bodies.

Everyone accepts the need for safeguards for the public, but the current legislation does not approach this in a logical way. It is neither efficient nor effective in what it should be seeking to do. The police and magistrates support reform.

Consumer groups and those who own or run licensed premises urge the next government, of whatever political persuasion, to act.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN M. CRYNE,
Chairman, Camra,
MARY CURNOCK COOK,
Director, British Institute of Innkeeping,
JEREMY LOGIE,
Chief Executive,
British Hospitality Association,
SHEILA McKECHNIE,
Director, Consumers Association,
TONY PAYNE,
Chief Executive,
Federation of Licensed Victuallers,
BRIGID SIMMONDS,
Chief Executive,
Business in Sport and Leisure,
ROBIN SIMPSON,
Director, Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association,
Campaign for Real Ale,
230 Hatfield Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
April 21.

Crime and punishment

From Mr J. A. Davis

Sir, Mr Fred Wachsberger asks (letter, April 15) whether it would not be "far simpler, proportional, fairer and automatically index linked" to fine miscreants one or two weeks'/months' income etc. Of course it would.

Such a scheme has worked very successfully in Scandinavia for over 50 years. It was even tried in England and Wales — for about six months between October 1992 and May 1993. But it did not survive the English middle-class conviction that it is wrong to fine people more just because they are rich — I heard a judge condemn the scheme in just those words.

There were some understandable teething troubles which could and would have been put right on appeal. There was a scornful campaign in the press in which, I am sorry to recount, *The Times* was very much in the van. There was a petition by the Magistrates' Association, a U-turn by the Home Secretary. And that, Sir, was that.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. DAVIS
(Justices' Clerk,
Kingston upon Thames, 1981-92),
54 Woodlands Road,
Bookham, Surrey.
April 15.

From Mr Julian Calderara

Sir, I agree with Fred Wachsberger that sentencing guidelines are too complicated and should be related to, say, weekly income.

Means testing for setting fines should not, however, take account of savings, otherwise people who save are likely to be penalised more than those who spend all their income.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN CALDERARA,
Ballingdon Cottage, Gaddesden Row,
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.
April 15.

Drought measures

From Mr J. A. Meacham

Sir, You quote Mr Ray Tennant, chairman of the Water Companies Association, as saying that if the drought persists all the private water companies in a region are planning to inflict various bans and other restrictions on their customers, including some for whom adequate supplies may exist, in order to try to avoid criticism of any individual water company. "It should stop people picking us off one by one," was his telling phrase (report, April 15; see also letters, April 9, 17).

The cynicism of this policy would defy belief had it not been for the demonstrated greedy and self-serving performance of the water companies since privatisation.

The very idea that customers might be inconvenienced unnecessarily, merely as a public-relations exercise to tamp down criticism, is the strongest argument I have yet heard for the next government to renationalise the water companies as soon as possible and constitute them as public utilities instead of private monopolies.

Yours sincerely,
J. A. MEACHAM,
The Pillared Cottage,
Witham on the Hill, Lincolnshire.
April 17.

Babies' sign language

From Ms Sue Unger

Sir, The article "The babies who speak in sign" (April 15; see also letter, April 19), detailing research by two American psychologists, did not surprise the British Deaf Association.

For over 100 years we have been trying to convince the education world to change their restrictive practices and allow deaf babies to sign, and that this would not inhibit their going on to learn speech skills.

This independent research has confirmed that use of signs by hearing children before their speech develops actually speeds up the process of spoken-language learning and stimulates intellectual and cognitive development.

Yours sincerely,
SUE UNGER (Education strategist),
British Deaf Association,
1 Worship Street, EC2.

Romantic notions

From Professor Alec Eden

Sir, It was with great interest that I read in your report on romance in French relationships (April 17; and letter, April 19) that "29 per cent of French women are put off by men who carefully fold their clothes before slipping between the sheets".

Now I have an explanation for my harmonious and loving marriage of almost 35 years.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC EDEN,
The Thatched House,
Mead Road, Torquay, Devon.
April 19.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Scientists test the efficacy of prayer

From Professor P. G. Rivière

Sir, The trustees of the John Templeton Foundation are not the first to try and test the power of prayer (report, "Let us pray, in the interests of science", April 11).

In 1872, Sir Francis Galton published "Statistical inquiries into the efficacy of prayer" (*The Fortnightly Review*, vol 12) and even proposed that one method of investigation would be to study "the effect of prayers for the restoration of health". He suggested that those suffering from certain readily identifiable complaints (fractures and amputations) might be divided into two groups, on the basis of their attitudes to prayer and being prayed for, and the consequences of that division monitored.

His own study looked at the effects on longevity of being prayed for, assuming, for example, that sovereigns tended to be prayed for more than anyone else and thus should live longer. His sample of sovereigns, from which those who met violent or accidental death were excluded, had the shortest lifespan of all those in public life, despite the multitude of prayers said for them. Galton wondered but doubted whether "conditions of royal life may naturally be yet more fatal" or, in other words, whether without the prayers they would have died even younger. Nor did he fail to consider the morale-raising possibilities of prayer and the psychological implications this might have for someone's wellbeing.

The one thing he seemed to have overlooked was any interference in the experiment by God.

Your faithfully,
P. G. RIVIERE,
Linacre College, Oxford.
April 15.

Gay 'marriages'

From the Archdeacon of Southwark

Sir, Archbishops of Canterbury (like Popes) should be ignored when they talk about sex ("Carey rules out Church blessing for gay 'marriages' ", April 16). Why should homosexual priests be celibate when heterosexual priests like the Archbishop and myself are not? Could the Archbishop have remained celibate if he were refused the option of marriage?

I could not and would not, therefore, enforce celibacy on anyone.

Yours sincerely,
DOUGLAS BARTLES-SMITH,
The Diocese of Southwark,
1a Dog Kennel Hill, SE22.
April 16.

Church welcome

From Mrs Jane S. Haworth

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury wants the Church of England to be inclusive and welcoming (report, April 14). One way in which this could be achieved would be to reverse the trend for Communion services to take the "prime mid-morning slot" on Sundays.

Communion is inherently an exclusive event, as only confirmed members of the Church can participate fully in it. Matins (which always used to occupy that slot) on the other hand is totally inclusive and, further, does not carry with it the terrors of not knowing the accepted way of approaching the altar rail in a strange parish: an activity fraught with social pitfalls.

If the Church of England wishes to remain the Established Church and enjoy the protections and privileges of state patronage it must, like the National Health Service, be totally accessible to all.

Yours faithfully,
JANE S. HAWORTH,
37 Portsmouth Avenue,
Thames Ditton, Surrey.
April 15.

Wedding hymns

From Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. Parrish (retd)

Sir, I cannot understand why the Church of England should be so concerned about the fall in the numbers of church marriages (reports, April 19). Having observed many weddings in our parish church from my seat in the choir, I hardly ever recognise a regular churchgoer among the wedding party or the congregation. I can only conclude that they are generally there for the setting rather than the religious content.

While this is a matter of great regret to me, if in future they prefer to be married in a field at least my Saturday afternoons will be free from having to sing *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and *Jerusalem*.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS PARRISH,
1 High Street, Cricklade, Wiltshire.
April 19.

Victory anthem?

From Mr Michael Beckett

Sir, I see that Westminster Abbey is singing *Blair in B minor* for Evensong on Saturday, May 3. Do they already know something we don't?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BECKETT,
12 Wigmore Street, W1.
April 19.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 21: Today is the Seventy First Anniversary of the Birthday of The Queen.

Her Majesty was represented by Rear-Admiral Sir Paul Greening (Extra Equerry) at the Funeral of Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Hardy-Roberts (Extra Equerry and former Master of the Household) which was held in the Cathedral Church of Our Lady and St Philip Howard, Arundel, this morning.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Ashmore.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Major-General Sir Phillip Ward.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Lieutenant Commander Sir Richard Buckley.

Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy was represented by the Lady Mary Mumford

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 21: The Princess Royal, Chancellor, University of London, this afternoon opened the Library and Learning Resources Centre, Wye College, Wye, Ashford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Kent (the Lord Kingsdown KG).

Her Royal Highness, President, RedR - Engineers for Disaster Relief, this evening attended RedR Patrons Dinner at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London SW1.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 21: The Duke of Gloucester visited the site of the new International Airport at Yeongchongdo and afterwards visited Daewoo Motors at Inchon. Later His Royal Highness attended a dinner for British Consultants given by His Excellency Mr Stephen Brown (Her Majesty's Ambassador) and Mrs Brown at the British Embassy, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

YORK HOUSE
April 21: The Duke of Kent, President, the Scout Association, this morning visited the Boy Scouts' Association, Claremont, and later viewed a sports coaching session, Langa Township, Cape Town.

His Royal Highness, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon met Miss Stella Sigcau, Minister for Public Enterprise of the Republic of South Africa.

The Duke of Kent later attended a launch reception for Britain Means Business: Cape Town '97, at the Cape Sun Hotel and this evening attended a dinner hosted by the South Africa Britain Trade Association, at the Table Bay Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 21: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Gala Fashion Show in aid of the Holly Lodge Centre, Richmond Park, at Drapers' Hall, London EC2.

Royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will visit Childwick House, the Racing Welfare Charities' home in Newmarket at 3.00.

The Princess Royal, as President, Rural Housing Trust, will open an affordable housing scheme at Tilden Court, High Halden, at 9.45am and perform a turf-turning ceremony to begin phase 2 of the Benenden housing scheme in New Pund Road, Benenden, Kent, at 10.15; as President of Patrons, Crime Concern, will attend a business lunch at Marks & Spencer, 57-67 Baker Street, London W1, at 12.30; as Chancellor of London University, she will open the Department of General Practice, Group Practice and Primary Care Skills Centre, United Medical and Dental Schools (Guy's and St Thomas'), Lambeth Walk, at 2.20.

The Duchess of Kent, as President of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, will open Meadow House Hospice, West London Health Centre NHS Trust, Uxbridge Road, Southall, at 11.00. Later, as Patron, the Association of Combined Youth Clubs, she will visit a charity shop at 161 Arthur Road, Wimbledon Park, London SW16 at 6.30, and attend a reception at Canbury School, Kingston Hill, Kingston upon Thames, at 7.25.

Luncheons

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were the hosts at a luncheon held yesterday at City Hall.

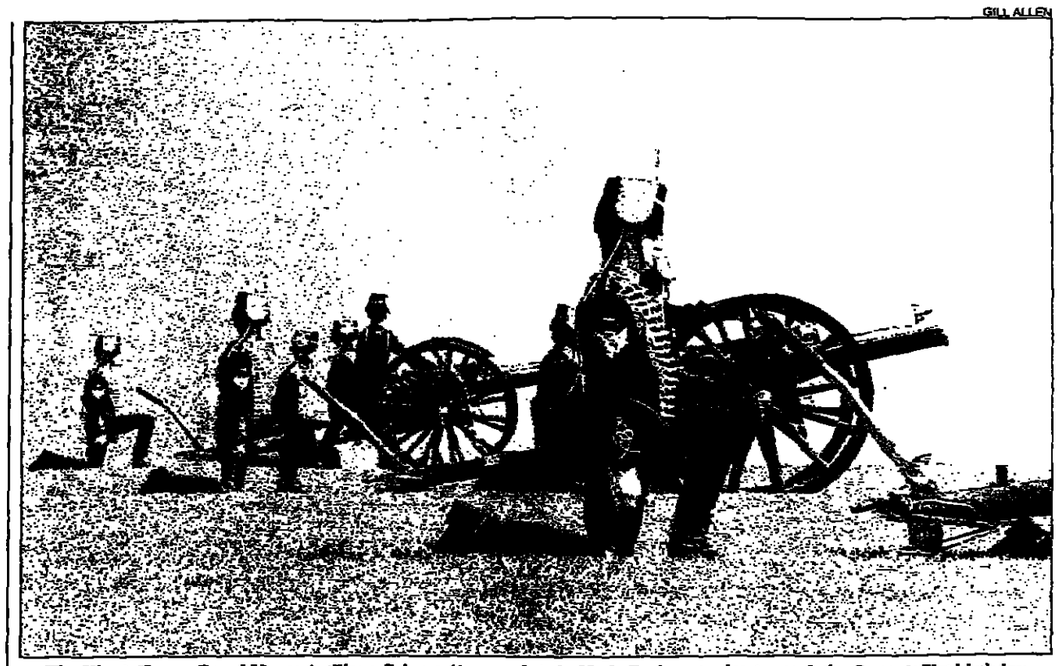
Guild of Editors
Lord Wakeham, Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, was the guest of honour at a luncheon given yesterday by the Guild of Editors at Bloomsbury House. Mr Bob Satchwell, Chairman of the Guild's Parliamentary and Legal Committee, was the host.

Meeting

Royal Over-Seas League
Sir David Ford was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Seas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Miss Hazel Ellis presided.

Appointment

Mr Tony Abbott to be Governor of Montserrat in succession to Mr Frank Savage who will be moving to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.


GILL ALLEN

The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, firing a 41-gun salute in Hyde Park yesterday to mark the Queen's 71st birthday

School announcements

Cheltenham College
Mr Paul Chamberlain, BSc, the Headmaster of St Bees School, Cumbria, has been appointed to succeed Mr Peter Wilkes as Headmaster of Cheltenham College. Term began yesterday at Cheltenham and ends on Saturday, July 5. Edward Dallas (Leconfield) continues as Senior College Prefect. James Koch is Captain of Cricket, and Ben Burch is Captain of Boats. The Common Room will be performing *The Comedy of Errors* in Big Classical on May 8-10 at 7.30pm, and the second Lower Sixth play *Whodunnit* will be performed in the Studio Theatre on May 15-17 at 7.30pm. Speech Day is on Saturday, May 24, and the guest speaker will be General Sir Michael Rose. A recital by the Northern College of Music, sponsored by Cheltenham College and the Cheltenham Ladies' College, as part of the Cheltenham Festival of Music, is on Sunday, July 6.

Kimbolton School
Term starts today and ends on July 3. Speech Day is on May 24, when the Right Hon Sir Martin Nourse, will present the Prizes. The Old Kimboltonians' Day is June 21 and the Annual Ball will be held in the Castle. *The Merchant of Venice* will be staged on June 26, 27 and 28. The Summer Concert will take place on June 30.

Latymer Upper School, W6
The Summer Term commenced today at Latymer Upper School, and ends on July 3. James Parsons is Captain of Boats, and Vishal Sethi is Captain of Cricket. The 1st XI match against the MCC is on Wednesday, May 14. The Latymer Choral Society perform at St Paul's Church, Hammersmith, on April 30; and the Lower School production *The Government Inspector* is on May 21-23. Old boys who have not recently been in contact are invited to contact the OL Office at school. Details on Admissions procedures are available from the Registrar, on 0181 741 1851. The School has charitable status and provides quality education.

Malvern College
Malvern College has made the following 13+ Entrance Scholarship Awards for September 1997:
Academic Scholarships: James Bath, The Downs, Wraxall (Porch Scholar); Emma Blayney, Winchester House, Brackley; Mikhail Fofanov, Rachel Newton and James Strawbridge, Malvern College Junior School, Hillstone; Chloe Grant, Friars, Bangor; Henry Hardingham, Beaudesert Park, Minchinhampton; Simon Hunter, St Hugh's, Faringdon; Simon Johnson, Abberley Hall, Worcs; Sarah Wooding, The Downs, Colwall.
Academic Exhibitions: Imogen Byers and Jaideep Shah, Hillstone; Alexander Ford and Rogan O'Herlihy, Beaudesert Park; Michael Griffiths, Cathedral School, Llandaff; Charlotte Marsden, St Anselm's, Bakewell.
Music Scholarships: Stephen Hill, Hillstone and James Littman, Stoke Brunswick, East Grinstead.
Music Exhibition: Henry Hardingham, Beaudesert Park.
Art Scholarships: Eve Monteiro, Stover, Newton Abbot; James Strawbridge, Hillstone.
Art Exhibitions: Thomas Cornwell, Aymestrey, Worcs and Tang Tepharaska, Beaudesert Park.
Malvern College exists to provide a quality all-round education for pupils aged 3-18.

St George's School, Windsor Castle
Term begins today. Tomorrow being St George's Day The Queen will visit the school and open the new wing accommodating the Pre-Preparatory Department and six new classrooms for the main school. On Friday, April 25, a concert and banquet will be held in aid of the two million pounds development appeal at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich at which Princess Margaret will be guest of honour. On Sunday, June 15, the school will host the Lord's Taverners Cricket Match between the President's XI and the Twelfth Man's XI. The school play will be *The Ballad of Salomon Pavey* with the gala performance on Parents' Day, Sunday, June 29. Old Boys' Day will be on Saturday, July 5, and term will end on Friday, July 11.

Whitgift
Trinity Term began on April 16. Joanna Lumley narrates in *The Emperor and the Bird of Paradise* at the Alan Ridout Memorial Concert on April 21 at St John's Smith Square. Performers include James Bowman, the London Mozart Players (Whitgift Associate Musicians) and Whitgift Choristers. Juggling Friends present *The Miser* on April 29 and David Juritz, leader of the London Mozart Players, conducts a String Masterclass on May 6. The school's Arts and Project Week commences on June 30.
Major academic, all-round, art or music scholarships have been awarded to Edward Beckett (Cumnor House), Mark Coppell (Cumnor House), Matthew Durton (Downside), Ovuefe Efeotor (Downside), Martin Ford (Priory, Banstead), Richard Gilliams (St David's, Purley), Edward Greenhalgh (Westbury House), Adam Healy (Ushaw), Joseph Hood (Cumnor House), Daniel Liu (Royal Russell), John McNellly (Downside), Daniel Munden (Downside), Ross Netherway (Elmhurst), Philip Robinson (Downside), Edward Silversione (Cumnor House), Frederick Smith (Cumnor House), Adam Sopp (Oak Lodge Primary), Gregory Tobiasiewicz (Taleham Lea), Simon Wall (Bandon Hill Primary School), Martin Whiteside (Elmhurst), Christopher Wickenden (Elmhurst). Bursaries and Scholarships awarded for the academic year 1997/98 will be in excess of £1 million in addition to Government Assisted Places.
*20% or more of the fees.

Environmental Cleaners

Installation of officers
The following have been installed officers of the Company of Environmental Cleaners for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr Terence D. King; Senior Warden, Mr Brian Cole; Junior Warden, Mr David A.S. Clark.

University news

Oxford
Bampton Lectureship 1999
The Right Rev Lord Habgood has been elected to the Bampton Lectureship for 1999.

Marriage

Mr D.C. Bird and Mrs S. Hammond
The marriage took place in Chesterfield, on Thursday, April 17, 1997, of David Bird and Sandra Hammond.

Birthdays today

Mr Leo Abse, former MP, 80; Sir Michael Atiyah, OM, FRS, former president, Royal Society, 68; Sir Christopher Ball, former Warden, Keble College, Oxford, 72; Mr Lewis Biggs, curator, Tate Gallery, Liverpool, 45; Mr Alan Bond, company chairman and yachtsman, 59; Mr Peter Bowring, former chairman, C.T. Bowring, 74; Mlle Yvette Chauviré, ballerina assoluta, 80; Sir John Chilcot, civil servant, 58; Mr George Cole, actor, 72; Mr Alan Dukes, former president, Fine Gael, 52; Major-General Sir John Foley, 58; Mr Peter Goldstein, joint founder, Superdrug, 57; Mr Lloyd Honeyghan, boxer, 37; Mr Ronald Hynd, choreographer, 66; Mr Archy Kirkwood, 51; Mr Nico Ladenis, restaurateur, 63; Mr Geoffrey Marshall, Provost, The Queen's College, Oxford, 68; Lord Menuhin, OM, 81; Mr Jack Nicholson, actor, director and producer, 60; the Earl of Oxford and Asquith, 81; Miss Margaret Pereira, forensic scientist, 69; Viscount Portman, 63; Sir David Ratford, former diplomat, 63; Miss Jancis Robinson, wine writer and broadcaster, 47; Professor Sir Eric Sceowen, physician, 87; Mr C.H. Sisson, CH, writer and poet, 83; Mr David Summerscale, Head Master, Westminster School, 60; Sir Robert Wade-Gery, diplomat, 68.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Henry Fielding, novelist, Sharpham Park, Somerset, 1707; Immanuel Kant, philosopher, Königsberg, Germany, 1724; Phil May, cartoonist, Wortley, Yorkshire, 1864; Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, Russian revolutionary, Simbirsk (Ulyanovsk), 1870; Alexander Kerensky, Prime Minister of Russia, 1917, Simbirsk, 1881; Sergei Prokofiev, composer, Sontsovka, Ukraine, 1891; Vladimir Nabokov, novelist, St Petersburg, 1899; Robert Oppenheimer, pioneer of the atom bomb, New York, 1904; Kathleen Ferrier, contralto, Higher Walton, Lancashire, 1912.

DEATHS: John Tradescant, traveller and gardener, London, 1662; James Hargreaves, inventor of the spinning jenny, Nottingham, 1778; Thomas Rowlandson, caricaturist, London, 1827; Richard Trevithick, pioneer of the locomotive engine, Dartford, 1833; Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Prime Minister 1905-08, London, 1908.

Sirius, a British packet steamer, was the first steam-ship to cross the Atlantic to New York from England, 1838.

British lone yachtsman Robin Knox-Johnston completed his solo non-stop circumnavigation of the world in just 312 days, 1969.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.I. Bailey and Miss R.A. Dalton
The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Bailey, of Lanya Village, Cyprus, and Rachel, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Owen Dalton, of Booterstown, Co Dublin.

Mr A.J. Crosthwaite and Miss M.K. Kubota
The engagement is announced between Adam, son of Mrs Allan M. Kerr and the late Mr Richard Crosthwaite, of North Yorkshire, and Meg, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Kei Kubota, of Tokyo.

Mr J.D.S. Dare and Miss V.A. Curtis
The engagement is announced between Jocelyn, son of Mr and Mrs Barry Dare, of Blockley, Gloucestershire, and Victoria, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugo Curtis, of Richmond, Surrey.

Dr J.C. Feneley and Miss L.B. Parker-Swift
The engagement is announced between Julian, younger son of Mr and Mrs Roger C.L. Feneley, of Clifton, Bristol, and Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Parker-Swift, of Thurlestone, South Devon.

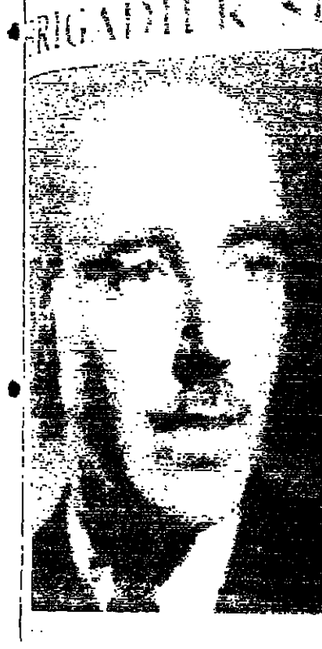
Mr C.C.V. Kaye and Miss A.J. Chalmers
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Colonel and Mrs Colin Kaye, of Bosham, West Sussex, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roderick Chalmers, of The Peak, Hong Kong.

Mr J.A. Kennedy and Miss A.E. Gliddon
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Kennedy, of Wimbledon, and Amanda, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Richard Gliddon, of Bristol.

Lieutenant R.K. Lawson and Miss R. Charlwood
The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of Mrs Julie Lawson, of Newport, Shropshire, and Rachel, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Charlwood, of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Mr S. Paterson and Miss C.B. Simonsen
The engagement is announced between Steven, son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Paterson, of Prestwick, Ayrshire, and Camilla Birte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Finn Harald Simonsen, of Rotherfield Greys, Oxfordshire.

Mr M. Vincent and Miss M.V. Grantham
The engagement is announced between Matthew, youngest son of Mrs Barbara Vincent and the late Alan Vincent, of Werribee, Melbourne, Australia, and Melanie Victoria, middle daughter of Pam and Michael Grantham, of Limpsfield Chart, Surrey.



PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Live as those who are free; not however as though your freedom provided a cloak for wrongdoing, but as slaves in God's service. 1 Peter 2 : 16

BIRTHS

BANKS - On 14th April 1997, to Jane (née Miller) and Matthew, a son, Angus Roderick William, Gordon-and a daughter, Ella Louise Dawson, Gordon-.

BARRATT - On Good Friday, March 28th at St Peter's, Maldon, to Jackie (née Williams) and Michael, a beautiful son, Joel Connor. A brother for Matthew, Jamie and Toby.

BENNINGTON - *On April 11th* at The Portland Hospital, to Allison and William, a daughter, Victoria Elizabeth.

BLAKE - On April 19th in Warwick, to Fiona (née Hussey) and Simon, a son, Charles David.

CARLETON PAGET - On April 20th in Cambridge, to Lauren and James, a daughter, Emily Josephine.

CREEDY SMITH - On April 19th 1997, to Rebecca (née White) and Simon, a daughter, Sarah Jane.

DEALTRY - On April 19th, to Giles and Nicola (née Turnbull), a son, Oscar Thomas, a brother for Felix.

DE BANZIE LAMPARD - On April 18th, to Duncan and Jo, a handsome son, Barnabas, a brother for Clemantine and Bartholomew.

DONOVAN - On April 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Deirdre (née O'Donoghue) and Daniel, a son, Alasdair John.

FOSS - On April 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Marie Therese (née Windham) and Stephen, a son, Quentin Aleksander.

HORSWELL - on April 16th 1997, to Nona (née Gallwey) and Edward, a daughter, Honor Daisy.

KILBORN - On 19th April, to Lucy and Peter, a son, Nicholas Patrick, a brother for Isabel.

LAWRENCE - On 18th April, to Catherine (née Shapiro) and Paul, a daughter, Annabel Amelia, a sister for Sebastian, Tara and Alistair.

LEATHART - On April 18th, to Sophie (née Knight) and Tom, a son, Cuthbert Frederick Hedley, a brother for Columbine.

LEIGH - On 14th April 1997, to Catriona (née Wight) and Simon, a daughter Emily, a sister for Harriet.

MacCORMACK - On 20th April at home, to Josephine (née Cochrane) and Andrew, a son, Archie Michael, a brother for Peter.

MALDEN - On 17th April, to Caroline and Robert, a son, Benedict William Henry.

McAULIFFE - On April 21st 1997, to Andrew and Charlotte (née Huntington-Whiteley), a daughter, Daisy Sarah, a sister for Tilly and Jasper.

OAKTON - On April 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Ann and Martyn, a son, Joseph Conor.

PARKHOUSE - On March 18th 1997, to Philippa (née Scott) and Mark, a daughter, Eugenie Philippa, a sister for Antoinette Frances.

QUARTEY - On April 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Coretta (née Dadzie) and Emmanuel Lamd jnr., a son, Emmanuel Lamd III.

SHAW - On 17th April, to Lulu (née Lovill) and Simon, a daughter, Harriet Francesca, a sister for Emily and Katie.

SMITH - A gift of love to Mandy and David on 19th April 1997, a beautiful daughter, Annabel Grace.

SMITH - On 19th April 1997 at Arlington, Virginia, USA, to Janet (née Parrett) and Tobin, a son, Cameron Graham.

SMOUHA - On 17th April 1997 at The Lindo Wing, to Lucy (née Howard) and Joe, a son, Harry Alan.

THOMAS - On April 12th, to Jeremy and Katherine (née Reece), a daughter, Eleanor Angharad Reece, a sister for James.

TITCOMB - On April 18th 1997, to Diana (née Mills) and Mark, a son, Samuel James. A brother for Dominic and Alasdair.

TORRENS-BURTON - To Jonathan and Tricia in Rochester, Minnesota, USA on 15th April 1997, a son, Benjamin Matthew.

WHITE - On April 17th 1997, to Patricia (née Skinner) and Richard, a daughter, Rowena Demelza Victoria.

WÜRTTENBERG - On April 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Marie and Phillip, a daughter, Pauline.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

BUCHANAN-COCKE - Alan and Dudley on 22nd April 1972 at St Mary's, Wimbledon.

DEATHS

ACTON - Thomas aged 21 on April 10th 1997 at The Royal London Hospital following an accident. Dearest son of Judith and Anthony and brother of Rosalind. Funeral Service at Chelmsford Cathedral on Wednesday April 30th at 2.45 pm followed by private cremation. In Tom's memory any donations to the Intensive Care Unit Royal London Hospital c/o T. Pennack & Sons, Funeral Directors, 1-3 Maldon Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 7DW.

ALLCOCK - *On April 19th 1997* peacefully in hospital, Muriel Joyce aged 83 of Ruislip, daughter of the late Christopher and Florence Allcock and dearly loved cousin of the Allcock family of Corfe Castle and of the Gower family formerly of Ruislip. Headmistress of Ruislip Gardens Infant School from 1950 to 1974. Funeral at St Martin's Church, Ruislip on Wednesday 30th April at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Martin's Church Restoration Fund.

BUCKLEY - Janet Mary (Formerly Buchan). Peacefully on the 17th April 1997. Funeral Service at Reading Crematorium on Thursday April 24th 1997 at 11.30 a.m. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to R.N.I. may be sent c/o Geoffrey Church & Co. 46 Bishopswood Road, Tadley, Hants. Tel: 0118 9814420.

BURROWS - Iona, beloved wife for 53 years of Bernard Burrows, much loved mother of Antonia and Rupert, grandmother of Tom, Silva and Owen, died April 19th at St Wilfrid's Hospice, Chichester. Cremation at Chichester Crematorium, Tuesday April 29th, 11 am. Memorial Meeting in London later. No flowers please, donations if desired to St Wilfrid's Hospice.

CLEGHORN - Peacefully after a long illness in Moyness Nursing Home on Monday April 21st 1997, Ian, beloved husband of the late Eileen, sadly missed father of Annie and Martin. Funeral Service on Friday 25th April in Dundee Crematorium at 12 noon to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only.

CROFT - Brian Desmond on Sunday April 20th peacefully at his home in London, with Hortense and his family at his bedside after a brave fight against cancer. Private cremation followed by a Memorial Service at St George's Church, Aubrey Walk, on Friday 25th April at 3 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to the Marie Curie Foundation or Imperial Cancer Research c/o J.H. Kenyon, (0171) 937-0757.

CUMING - Christine (née Robertson) died peacefully at home on 21st April 1997 aged 69. Beloved wife of Hugh, mother of Brian, Frances and Alastair. Much loved by family and friends. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at St Swithin's Church, Swanbourne, at 2.30pm on Friday 9th May.

CUNNINGHAM-BATT - Michael Douglas Barrie on April 20th peacefully after a short illness aged 75. Beloved husband of Merlyn and father of Philip and Jonathan. A Service of Thanksgiving to be held at St Leonard's, Leaden, on Wednesday April 30th at 3.30pm. Enquiries to W.H. Shephard F/S (01206) 572305.

DUGDALE - On April 16th at her home, Ethel, widow of Colin and friend of many. Cremation at Portchester, Hampshire, on Thursday April 24th at 2.15 pm.

EELES - William, at home on April 17th, beloved son, brother, husband, father and grandfather.

EVELEIGH - Pippa on Wednesday April 16th 1997 very suddenly following a traumatic illness at Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon, very much loved wife of Simon and devoted and adored mother of Emma and Sophie. No flowers but donations to National Asthma Campaign or Tim's Fund. Donations and enquiries to Thomas Pree and Sons (01672) 512110. Service of Thanksgiving 2pm Friday April 25th at Marlborough College Chapel.

FAWCETT - Norah Lambert aged 82 years peacefully after an illness bravely borne at Tunbridge Wells Independent Hospital on 21st April 1997. Beloved wife of the late Bernard and much loved mother of Barney and Anne and grandmother of Jane and Hezekah. Funeral Service at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Monday 28th April at 2.30 pm. Enquiries to W. & F. Groombridge & Sons Funeral Directors, 31 Quarry Hill Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 2RS, tel: (01732) 353964.

FORSTER - Brigadier (ret'd) Eric Brown, suddenly at home in Appleton Roebuck, York, on Friday April 18th 1997. Devoted and much loved husband of Margaret, very dear father of Malcolm, Rosemary and Angela and a loving grandfather. Funeral Service and interment at All Saints Church, Appleton Roebuck, on Friday April 25th at 2 pm. Family flowers only please.

FORSTER - Leonard peacefully at home after a long illness on 18th April. Much loved husband, father, grandfather. Funeral Selwyn College Chapel 3 pm 27th April. Memorial Service later.

GRAHAM - Major John Patrick Neal of Kilifi, Kenya, on April 17th in England. Beloved father and grandfather. Service of Thanksgiving Friday April 25th 12 noon at St Bartholomew's Chapel, Goring Heath, everybody welcome afterwards at Little Bowden. No flowers. Donations to Hope and Homes for Children, East Clyffe, Salisbury, Wilts. SP3 4LZ.

HOPE - Cynthia on April 14th 1997 peacefully at home. Widow of Lt. Col. H.A. Hope OBE MC, late 60th Rifles. A much loved mother, sister and grandmother. Private cremation on 25th April and a Memorial Service at Sherston Church, Sherston, Malmesbury, Wilts. on Friday 16th May at 3 pm. No flowers, but donations if wished to Cancer Relief Macmillan Nurses c/o H & G Matthews Funeral Directors, 7 Burnham Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

HUNT - John Beresford peacefully at home on Friday 18th April aged 62. Much loved Husband of Pat. Devoted father of Charles and Victoria. Funeral Service at St Mary Magdalene Church Taunton at 2 pm on Friday 25th April. Family flowers only, donations to The Army Benevolent Fund.

IONIDES - Marjorie Elizabeth (Betsy), widow of Tubby, of Henfield, West Sussex, peacefully on 18th April 1997 aged 89. Much loved mother of Susan, Elizabeth, Jane, Sarah and the late James and grandmother of 12. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service at Holy Trinity, Poynings, Sussex, 3 pm Saturday 3rd May. No flowers. Donations if wished to The Treasurer, League of Friends, Chailey Heritage, Newick, Sussex.

JENNINGS - Harry (Commander RN retired). Died peacefully on April 17th aged 79. Husband of Joan and grandfather of Diarmuid, Stephen, Simon and Lucy. Service at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath, on Thursday 24th April at 11.30 am.

JOHNSON - Suddenly at home on 15th April 1997, Kenneth Walterfield FCA aged 84 years. Beloved husband of the late Gladys and father of Arnold. Funeral Service at United Reformed Church, Hassocks, West Sussex, on Friday 25th April at 2.15 pm followed by cremation. Family flowers only, but donations payable to Parkinson's Disease Society may be sent to C & T Radmall Funeral Services, 223 London Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, tel: (01444) 871212.

JONES - Norman Sumner, very suddenly, with Friday's Times in his hand and apparently without stress, on 18th April aged 82, in the Isle of Man; marine biologist and general naturalist. Survived by his wife Jo, daughters Anne and Biddy, son Martin, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. No funeral (at his request).

LAIRD - On April 14th at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, Dr. Charles Campbell, much loved by all his family. Funeral Service was held yesterday at Canford Crematorium, Bristol. In lieu of flowers, donations to Renal Dialysis Unit, Southmead Hospital.

LEWIS - Angela peacefully on April 19th widow of Lt. Col. Philip Lewis, Somerset Light Infantry. Much loved mother of Julian and Lavinia. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at Droxford Church on Monday April 28th at 2.30 pm.

LOCKITT - Reginald Stanley, (Lou), aged 90, peacefully at Townlands Hospital, Henley, on Saturday 19th April 1997. Much loved Father, Grandfather and Widower of Sallie. Funeral at Shiplake Church on Friday 25th April at 2 pm.

McDOWELL - née Percival Elizabeth DSC FRSE. Dearly loved wife of Richard McDowell. Passed away on April 16th at St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. The Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday 23rd at Woking Crematorium at 3.00pm. Close family and friends only. No flowers. Donations to Shelter Fund if wished. Funeral arrangements by F. Harrison & Son, Edgham. 01784 432163.

MITCHELL - On April 20th, at home after a long illness, Stanley Frederick. Beloved husband of Phyllis, father of Jennifer (Ais) and John and a much loved grandfather. Private family cremation. A Thanksgiving Service at All Saints Church, Beckley, near Rye to be announced later. A little spent in the service of others as a doctor, a member of Toc H and in Beckley Church. Donations to Toc H, 1, Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks. HP22 6BT.

NELSON - Meg (née Buxton-Knight), wife of Edmund and former wife of the late Bill Wilson, died peacefully on April 17th in Selsey aged 75. Funeral Service to be held at St Peter's Church, Selsey, on Friday April 25th at 11 am followed by burial at Church Norton. Flowers, or donations to The Red Cross, c/o F.A. Holland & Son, 1 New Parade, High Street, Selsey, Tel: 01243) 602764.

NEWGAS - Eric James aged 75 years, beloved husband of Rosemary and father of Carole. Former Company Director of Meyer International. Passed away peacefully in his sleep on April 17th at The Nuffield Hospital, Woodingdean, Sussex. Funeral Service at Golders Green Crematorium on Thursday 24th April at 11.30 am. Flowers to Hannington F/D, 4-6 Montacute Road, Hove, tel: (01273) 778733.

NEWTON DUNN - Thomas Robert (Tommy) Col. retired late RTR died peacefully on 20th April 1997. Dearly loved by Nancy and all the family. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday 30th April at 2pm Greywell Church. Donations if wished to the RTR and Injured Jockeys Fund.

ORR - Jean died peacefully on April 17th. Funeral Service to be held on Thursday 24th April at 1 pm at Haycombe Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for Osbourne House Nursing Home, c/o E Hooper & Son, 13 St James Parade, Bath BA1 1UL, tel: (01225) 422040.

PHILIPS - Hugh C.A. on 18th April 1997 at the Winterbourne Hospital, Dorchester. Beloved husband of Caroline. Much loved by all the family. Private cremation.

PRINCE - Frances died on 18th April, wife of the late John, mother of Gillian, Christopher and Rosemary and grandmother to Harriet. Funeral at Holy Cross Hospital, Thursday 24th April at 11 am. Enquiries G.M. Luff (01428) 643524.

QUICK - On April 19th 1997 peacefully, after a short illness, Norman C.B.E., D.L. aged 74 years. Much loved husband of Maureen. A wonderful bird to Jocelyn, Judith, Joanna and Jane, and a loving grandfather of five. Private cremation, followed by a service of Celebration and Thanksgiving in the Parish Church of St Mary, Rostherne, Cheshire on Friday April 25th at 2 pm. No flowers please, donations if desired for the New Heart, New Start Appeal, Wythenshawe Hospital may be sent to the funeral directors J.A. Whiston, King Street, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6DW. Tel: (01565) 632644.

ROWLAND JONES - Pat on 20th April at home, beloved wife of Bones and dearest Mossy to all her children and grandchildren. Private funeral at Beverstone on 25th April. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Tetbury Hospital.

VAUGHAN - Evelyn on 18th April 1997 peacefully at The Kent and Canterbury Hospital, formerly of Canterbury, late of The Old Rectory Nursing Home, Ickham, Canterbury. Widow of Major John Eyre Vaughan, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Funeral Service takes place at Hawkinge Crematorium on Monday 28th April at 11.30 am. Flowers to C.W. Lyons & Son, 70 Military Road, Canterbury. (01227) 463508.

WEARNE - Rany died 19th April 1997 suddenly but peacefully at home, mother of Leslie and Alison. Funeral at St Gwenfaen's Church, Rhoscolyn, Anglesey, on Saturday 26th April at 12.30pm. Flowers and enquiries Griffith Roberts, Son, Presaryfa Valley, Holyhead, Anglesey, tel: (01407) 740940.

WILLIAMS - Yvonne (Ogilvy) died peacefully on 19th April aged 75. Beloved wife of 'Toots' Williams, mother and grandmother. Funeral Service St Mabyn Church 2.30 pm, Monday 28th April, followed by private cremation. No flowers or letters by request. Donations to Cornish Historic Churches Trust & Macmillan Nurses may be sent to R.J. Bray, Bridge End, Wadebridge, Cornwall.

WILSON - On 16th April, Susan Elizabeth (née Thomson) of Middlington, Otton. Funeral private. Service of Thanksgiving to be announced.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

POLLAK - A commemoration of the life and work of Anne Pollak, concert-soprano, will be held at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, on Thursday May 8th at 12 noon.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

SELBY - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Ralph Walford Selby Esq., CMG, will be held at The Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Thursday 24th April 1997 at 2 pm. For further details contact 01705-462631 or 461602.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BRITTON - Andrew James 18/1/51 to 22/4/95. "Life seems more sweet that thou didst live". In our thoughts today and every day. Valerie, Paul and Anna.

SERVICES

PLUMP PARTNERS National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner ring 01353 715909.

WANTED

PRE 1940's clothes, linen, lace, furs, patchwork quilts, embroideries, samplers, oriental articles, shawls, textiles, costume jewellery etc 0171 229 9618

ROLEX & CARTIER wanted. High cash prices paid. 0171 495 8992 or visit 31 Park Lane W1.

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL TICKETS
WIMBLEDON 1997
BRITISH GRAND PRIX
ROYAL ASCOT
FRENCH OPEN TENNIS
RYDER CUP
ENGLAND V AUSTRALIA
PILKINGTON CUP FINAL
HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA
MICHAEL JACKSON
U2, SUPERTRAMP
GLASTONBURY
All Sports, Pop & West End theatre.
0171 323 4480
Gt Portland Ents

ALL TICKETS AVAILABLE
Specialist in Wimbledon, Grand Prix & all major sporting events, theatre shows & all major pop events inc. U2, M. Jackson, D. Ross, P. Collins.
Tickets bought & sold
0171 821 6616

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL AVAR. Phantom, Saigon etc All pop Glastonbury, Cheapest in London. 0171 240 0800

ALL AVAR. Phantom, all theatre, M.Jackson, T.Braxton, Wimbledon all sport 0171 480 6183

ALL TICKETS M Jackson, Phil Collins, C. Dione, all major pop, sport & theatre. 0171 925 0085

ANY TICKET obtained. Theatre, Concerts & any sporting events. 0171 488 4414 (City).

TICKETS BOUGHT & SOLD - All sporting, Theatre & Concerts. Wimbledon Deb's, Cricket, Michael Jackson available. Glyndebourne wanted. Top £££ paid. Tel 0171 839 8323

WIMBLEDON, Grand Prix, Ascot, Ryder Cup, Proms, Theatre/concerts & all sporting events. Tel 0171 930 3895 or fax 0171 930 3894

ALL TICKETS
Wimbledon '97,
Royal Ascot, Ryder Cup,
Grand Prix Worldwide
Cricket, Flower Show.
U2, M. Jackson,
Jamiroquai,
Glastonbury
Phantom, Saigon etc,
ALL SOLD OUT EVENTS
0171 247 4123

FOR SALE

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper. Original. Superbly presented. Freephone 0800 906609

A NEWSPAPER dated your day you were born £18+p&p. Same day despatch. 0171 726 2626.

THE TIMES - 1791-1996 other titles available. Ready for presentation - also Sunday Newspapers, Wines. 0181-455 6323 or Call Free 0500 529000

YORK, PENNANT, slate, limestone & terracotta flagstones & floor tiles. Cobble setts, stone troughs, masonry service. Nat & Interiors, 6a, Batley, Neotell 01380 850039 (Wilts)

UK HOLIDAYS

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON Quality house, luxury amenities, available 1 week 3rd May, sleeps 8. £100pppw. 01273 776409

WINTER SPORTS

WEEKEND Skiing until May. Dept any day. White Roc 0171 792 1188 ATOL 3582.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

SWANSONG Eagle for sale, contact 01225 325753(o) 01225 313563(h)

FLATSHARE

PUTNEY prof m/f n/s own room share kitchen, bath & garden of large house. £95pw incl gas/elec. 0181 788 7656.

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

FRANCE, South. Help required, May end of August or part of. Small Pension nr Grasse, 0033 493 424119 Reverse charges

HEALTH & FITNESS



ONLY £95 DEPOSIT

"Churchill's are the only stairlift company I trust, and I recommend them to you" DAME THORA HIRD

- Installation often within 3 days
- All stairs fitted
- Value guaranteed

Call Churchill's
0800 371 982
Call FREE now and ask for Christine, Clive or Jean for a FREE home consultation 7 DAYS A WEEK 9AM-4PM
Nationwide 7 day service
Churchill's Stairlifts plc
THE STAIRLIFT EXPERTS
*applies only to promotional new straight lifts

AUCTIONS

RIPPON

MARY THOMAS

Mary Thomas, Welsh mezzo-soprano, died of cancer on April 17 aged 62. She was born on August 2, 1935.

Although she was a protean artist, who enjoyed several simultaneous careers, Mary Thomas will most immediately be associated with the music of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, in her role as the long-standing principal soprano of his ensemble, The Fires of London. Her stunning appearance as the screaming red nun in his *Revelation and Fall* of 1968, riveted audiences and invested both performer and composer with immediate notoriety. Such roles as the ageing, ravaged bride in Maxwell Davies's *Miss Donnithorne's Maggot*, which received its first airing in Australia six years later, only served to reinforce an impression of raw power.

Born and educated in Swansea, Thomas was already imbued with the qualities of the Welsh vocal tradition by the time she went to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Upon completing her training, she embarked on the career of a freelance singer.

Her clear yet lustrous voice responded to widely different musical challenges. She was frequently the soprano soloist in Bach's *St Matthew Passion* and, as a member of the Deller Consort, gave many international performances of works such as the Monteverdi *Vespers*. With them, she also recorded the role of Purcell's Dido, of whose nobility and humanity she was a predestined interpreter. In the same opera, she later took on the role of the Sorceress, in which her striking Celtic beauty and rich mezzo-soprano timbre made an indelible impression.

At the same time, she was active in the world of light music, and was a marvellous jazz singer and pianist. In the latter capacity, her idiomatic instinct for jazz style is preserved on a compact disc recording of Maxwell Davies's music for Ken Russell's film of Sandy Wilson's musical *The Boy Friend*.

From early on, she was also a committed exponent of contemporary music, in which her security of pitch and accuracy of rhythm were invaluable assets. More importantly, she always sang new scores in a full-blooded manner that conveyed the music behind the notes. She inspired or first performed the works of many living composers, and her insight into the needs of their particular style was remarkable.

Her vibrant soprano limned the arching curves of Sir Harrison Birtwistle's *Entr'actes and Sappho Fragments*, as well as the more concentrated and gnomic utterances of his *Cantata* on ancient Greek texts. In Michael Finnissy's *Mr Punch*, she portrayed all of the characters, and the range of different sung and spoken voices which she deployed constituted a vocal tour-de-force which retained its impact even when performed together with a colourful puppet-show.

Numerous singers have shed their individual moonbeams on *Pierrot Lunaire*, but Mary Thomas's interpretation of Schoenberg's masterpiece is considered by many to be the most inclusive and many-faceted rendering they have ever heard. The work's brilliance, tenderness and grotesquery were made for Thomas, and brought out her enormous histrionic gifts.

She performed it in full *commedia dell'arte* costume countless times all over the world in a manner that won the plaudits of other distinguished practitioners of the role. She made two commercial recordings of it during the Schoenberg centenary year, and her performance is a landmark in the work's history.

In comedy, her abilities were notorious. On one occasion she performed Satie's *Sports et Divertissements* at the Royan Festival and held a French audience in the palm of her hand, reducing them to such hysterics that the performance was in danger of not being able to continue.

Above all, there are her innumerable premiere performances of the music of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. His luminous instrumental song-cycles, including *Dark Angels*, *The Blind Fiddler* and *Excuse me*, were all written for her, and bear the imprint of her focus and intensity. Even more will remember her gallery of comic and tragic portraits in his music-theatre works. The first of these was the Red Nun/Incestuous Sister in *Revelation and Fall*, in which Thomas's ability to project a nightmarish Expressionist world, forged in her performances of *Pierrot Lunaire*, found a new outlet.

This was followed by *Miss Donnithorne's Maggot* (1974), in which she portrayed the real-life model for Dickens's Miss Haversham. It was a vehicle in which her ability to sustain a fine line between comedy and pain reached new heights. After the work's premiere at the 1974 Adelaide Festival, her name became a household word overnight across Australia and New Zealand.

Immediately thereafter, she repeated her triumph in London, and subsequently at many international festivals. She made the same sort of impact when she created the roles of Blind Mary in Davies's chamber-opera *The Martyrdom of St Magnus*; the Charlady/Bag Lady in his apocalyptic comedy *The No 11 Bus*; and the protagonist in *The Medium*, Maxwell Davies's chilling eponymous monodrama. They haunted audiences from the first and have continued to do so.

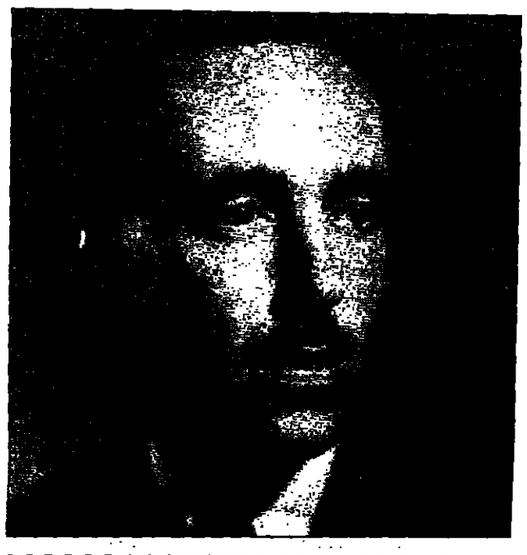
After retiring from performing, Mary Thomas joined the faculty of her alma mater, the Royal Academy of Music, where the word spread quickly among the students that she was as extraordinary a character as she was a teacher.

If possible, her human qualities outshone even her professional achievements. Magnificently and consistently herself, she made no distinction between peoples' social status, and would speak to a shop assistant or to royalty in the same way. Her warmth of personality irradiated all who came near her. She is survived by her husband, the cellist Edward Holmes. There were no children.



Mary Thomas in Peter Maxwell Davies's *Miss Donnithorne's Maggot*

BRIGADIER SIR GEOFFREY HARDY-ROBERTS



Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Hardy-Roberts, KCVO, CB, CBE, Master of the Queen's Household, 1967-73, died on April 9 aged 89. He was born on May 16, 1907.

AN ABLE administrator, Geoffrey Hardy-Roberts, achieved considerable success in three different fields: as a soldier, as a hospital administrator and finally as Master of the Queen's Household.

Always immaculately dressed, his eye for detail was legendary. The one thing he would not tolerate was sloppiness; woebetide anyone who was late for a meeting for whatever reason. Hardy-Roberts expected the same high standards from those who worked for him as he demanded of himself.

Geoffrey Paul Hardy-Roberts was educated at Eton, which he hated, and at the RMC Sandhurst. Commissioned in 1926 into the 9th Lancers, he served with them until retiring as a captain in 1937. Much of his service was spent in India, where he was able to play polo, the only ball game he liked. Apart from riding, the only other sport he cared for was fishing.

His father was killed in a riding accident in 1909 when Hardy-Roberts was still under two years old and he was brought up by his formidable mother as what is now called "a single parent". Having known this adversity, he resolved, after leaving the Army, to become a social worker. But the outbreak of war brought him back to the Army and this time his military career fully blossomed.

He served in the Western Desert and soon proved himself an outstanding regimental officer. Although captured at Tobruk he managed to escape in the prevailing chaos with his brother. He was promoted brigadier in 1943 and served as General Sir Miles Dempsey's chief-of-staff. He was appointed OBE in 1941, advanced to CBE in 1944 and made CB in 1945. He was also mentioned in dispatches and given the US Legion of Merit.

He stood as Conservative candidate for Wimbledon in the 1945 general election. But his defeat there by a Labour candidate in what had formerly been a safe Conservative seat convinced him that he was not cut out for the life of politics.

In 1946 he was appointed Secretary-Superintendent of Middlesex Hospital, one of London's major teaching hospitals. The National Health Service was about to be created and Hardy-Roberts had the task of explaining to apprehensive staff the implications of the new service and keeping up morale and efficiency, in all of which he was successful.

He proved himself an exceptional administrator and set standards for every department of the hospital. His guiding principle was that everything should be done to allow doctors and nurses to concentrate on their work, free from bureaucracy.

In 1967, at the age of 60, he was delighted to be appointed Master of the Queen's Household and once again his administrative abilities found full scope. He was responsible for the greater part of the workforce in the Royal Household and did much to ameliorate the then rather primitive living standards of the footmen, porters, chambermaids and cleaners. He also made numerous improvements to the way in which the Household was organised.

He retired in 1973, having been created KCVO the previous year, and continuing to serve as an Extra Equerry to the Queen.

All his life Hardy-Roberts lived in Sussex, being appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1960, a Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex in 1964, and High Sheriff in 1965. He was deputy-chairman of King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, from 1967 to 1981, and took an active part in many other local organisations and charities, particularly in Frittleworth, where he had his home.

In 1945 Hardy-Roberts married Eldred, the widow of Colonel J. R. Macdonell. She predeceased him in 1987. There were no children.

ZDENEK MLYNAR

Zdenek Mlynar, Czech politician, died of cancer on April 15 aged 66. He was born in Bohemia on June 22, 1930.

ALTHOUGH he began his political life as a committed member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, Zdenek Mlynar was to become an outspoken critic of his country's Communist regime. A reformist, he was one of the architects of the 1968 Prague Spring. He went on to take a prominent part in the opposition to Gustav Husak's hardline leadership and was expelled from the Communist Party in 1970. As a young man Mlynar also had the distinction of becoming the first foreign friend of Mikhail Gorbachev and, from the late 1980s, resumed his friendship with him.

Zdenek Mlynar joined the Communist Party in the spring of 1946 when he was not quite 16. "In those days," he later wrote, "my communist faith was a closed system, which could not be penetrated." He served as a secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party youth movement, 1949-50, and between 1950 and 1955 studied in the Law Faculty of Moscow University.

It was there that Mlynar got to know Mikhail Gorbachev and another fellow-student, Raisa Titorenko (whom Gorbachev married in 1953). They became close friends. In 1967 Mlynar visited the Gorbachevs in Stavropol, where he discussed some of the reforms which he hoped would soon be introduced in Czechoslovakia.

After Mlynar's expulsion from the Communist Party in 1970, he wrote nothing about his friendship with Gorbachev until shortly after the latter became General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party in 1985. Having his good relations with a Czech revisionist made public was not something Gorbachev would have welcomed on his way up the Soviet hierarchy. But, with Gorbachev safely in the Kremlin, Mlynar wrote a revealing article about him for *L'Unita*, the Italian Communist Party newspaper, which led to an invitation to the White House for a discussion about the new Soviet leader with President Reagan's National Security Adviser, Robert ("Bud") McFarlane.

Earlier Mlynar had made a successful career as an academic. He took the Czech equivalent of a British PhD and also a higher doctorate and became the author of many books and articles on politics and constitutional law. In the 1960s his ideas became increasingly reformist and he was one of those who helped to pave the way for the radical changes introduced in 1968. He was secretary to the Law Commission of the Central Committee from 1964 to 1968 and in 1966 was appointed head of an interdisciplinary team charged with working out an "optimal political model" for Czechoslovakia.

He was the most influential of the authors of the revisionist "Action Programme" of the Communist Party in 1968 and in that year he became, briefly, a full-time politician as a secretary of the Central Committee and from September to November a member of its Praesidium as well. In November 1968, however, he resigned from these posts because he believed that compromise with the Soviet leadership in the wake of the military intervention had gone too far. His expulsion from the Communist Party followed less than two years later.

Rather than return to academic law and political science in the post-invasion conditions, Mlynar took up his childhood interest in insects and became a professional entomologist in the National Museum of Prague. But during the first half of the 1970s he also remained extremely active in the ex-Communist wing of the opposition movement in Czechoslovakia. On the appearance of the dissident Charter 77 in 1977, of which Mlynar was a prominent signatory, he was dismissed from his post at the museum.

He emigrated to Vienna, where he taught political science while keeping up a stream of publications. One of his most revealing books was a volume of perceptive memoirs entitled *Nightfrost in Prague: The End of Humane Socialism* (1980). He was a regular contributor also to Czech émigré oppositional publications.

After the fall of Communism in Czechoslovakia, Mlynar divided his time between Prague and Vienna, but never succeeded in making a mark on Czech politics comparable to the one he had made as a reformist Communist. He was a member of the Left Bloc which was critical both of the Communists and of the Government but which, while more leftist than the Social Democrats, could not compete successfully with the latter.

Mlynar, a tall and handsome man of exceptional intelligence, was one of the best analysts of his own transition from dogmatic Communist through revisionist Communist to Democratic Socialist.

He is survived by his widow, Irena Dubska, a sociologist and by the two children from an earlier marriage to Rita Budinova (later Klimova), the first post-Communist Czech Ambassador to the United States.



PERSONAL COLUMN

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

COSTCUTTERS on flights & hols to Europe, USA & most destinations. Diplomat Travel Services Ltd: 0171-730 2201. ABTA 25703 IATA/ATOL 1355.

ICARUS FLIGHTS — Booking Summer 1997 Now 01476 514666 ICARUS TRAVEL LTD — RETAIL AGENT FOR ATOL HOLDERS ATOL 4054

FLIGHT PRICES From	
MALAGA	59
ALICANTE	59
FARO	65
BALEARICS	65
CANARIES	69
GREECE	79
MALTA	89
TURKEY	89
ITALY	99
CARIBYN	199

Many other Destinations available also Car hire/insurance.

GERMANY Daily low cost flights and hotel accomodation. All ans for cc Seamus Travel Centre 0161 429 2900. ABTA 90665 ATOL 2977 IATA.

EMBASSY FLIGHT CENTRE

Alicante fr	£69	U.S.A.	£165
Faro	£69	Australia	£525
Canaries	£95	Israel	£155
Malaga	£65	Malta	£59
Greece	£125	Cyprus	£109
Palma	£95	Turkey	£129

Retail agents for ATOL holders 01273 700737

SEAT SALE Estebbe/Dar fr £399 rtn also Nairobi fr £325, Lagos, Johann. Call Creston Travel 0171 306 3112 acol 33465 e mail: creston@dircon.co.uk

CAPITAL FLIGHTS — Open Daily till late

Malaga	fr £69	Turkey	£79
Alicante	£59	Cyprus	£99
Faro	£69	Malta	£99
Canaries	£99	Orlando	£169
Palma	£59	New York	£169
Greece	£129	Australia	£959

World fares available at discount. Car hire, Hotels and Insurance

0171 209 4000.

ABTA 85560 Retail agents for ATOL holders

AIRLINK Worldwide — Discount fares to all destinations

ALICANTE	59	CYPRUS	99
FARO	59	MALTA	99
IBIZA	79	CANADA	199
MALAGA	79	CANARIES	99
MINORCA	79	HONG KONG	399
TENERIFE	79	AUSTRALIA	399
GREECE	99	CARIBBEAN	399
PALMA	79	AUSTRALIA	399

Car Hire, Insurance & Accommodation

0171-713-7770

MONUMENT TRAVEL

Spain fr	£69	Malta	£69
Canaries	£79	U.S.A.	£169
Greece	£99	Canada	£199
Portugal	£69	Caribbean	£209
Turkey	£99	Australia	£499

01476 404747

Retail agent for ATOL holders ABTA W0514

FLIGHTSEATS — Inexpensive Car Hire Available. Retail agents for ATOL holders. ABTA C5207. ABTA members for 18 years

Alicante	£59	Dalaman	£99
Malaga	£59	Malta	£69
Faro	£59	Greece & Islands	£99
Palma	£59	Nice	£99
Menorca/Ibiza	£59	Geneva	£99
Tenerife	£79	Israel	£129
Lanzarote	£79	Orlando	£169
Funchal	£99	Canada	£229

0990 230904

JETLINE — Discounted fares to all destinations

SPAIN	fr £59	USA	fr £169
PORTUGAL	79	CARIBBEAN	209
ISRAEL	99	S. AFRICA	339
GREECE	99	CANADA	179
TURKEY	99	INDIA	299
CYPRUS	149	FAR EAST	299
ARABIA	259	AUSTRALIA	499

Best quotes on Car Hire and Insurance

0171 360 1111

ABTA 81154 OPEN 7 DAYS ATOL 2479

INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS

huge savings

Per minute – Anytime	
Japan	28p
Nigeria	67p
Ghana	67p
Malaysia	50p
USA	10p
Morocco	57p
Lebanon	78p
Austria	28p
Philippines	58p
Sri Lanka	88p
Mauritius	88p
Russia	59p
Romania	57p

and many many more low low rates...

Special Offers require set prepay rents. Offer valid for two minimum 1 day holiday, travel insurance to be purchased from Apex Travel.

on international phone calls 24 hours a day.

New Customers £200 towards Kuoni Holidays +£10 of FREE CREDIT

It's so simple...
- No Extra Charges
- Any Phone
- No Installation
- High Quality Lines and Service
- Per Second Charging
- Free Itemised Statements
- Constant Low Rates, All Day, Every Day to over 240 countries

Call Freephone 0800 0747 000 and see how much you can save

Worldcall — keep in touch for less

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 TRIDSTMOLE TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED (Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above named company are required, on or before 30th day of June 1997, to send in their full names, addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any), to me, Roderick Jones of Begbie Norton & Partners, 1 & 2 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5BZ, the Liquidator of the company and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 16th day of April 1997

R J Jones, LIQUIDATOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS to members of the Clarewood Surveyors' (1913) Club and especially Stephen Clipston.

YOUNG CHELSEA SKIDDS club and school (18-40 age group). Tel: 071-373 1665

DANES HILL SCHOOL, Oxshott, Surrey, would be delighted to hear from former pupils who would be interested in receiving further information about the Danes Hill Golden Jubilee celebrations this summer. Please contact the Headmaster's Secretary on 01372 842446

RENTALS

CHELSEA Elegant 1st flr flat in period house. Dble bed, o/s bath, cbln recep, tf kit. £350 pw Allen Bates 0171 636 6666

SW1 PIMLICO Attractive 1 bed, recep, kit & bathrm, newly covered. £250pw 0171 834 1026

SW7 Quiet dbl bedrm, view gdns. Well furn recep firepl. Fitted spec kit inc, dw wd stw fan ov. £340pw. Tel: 0171 373 4994.

W1 Mayfair (Park Lane), luxury apt, o/s, all amenities, £180pw+bills. 0468 918468.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A LEGACY TO THE MUSICIANS BENEVOLENT FUND CAN DO SO MUCH TO HELP NEEDY MUSICIANS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS - FOR WHOM ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS CAN LEAD TO DESPAIR AND EVEN SILENCE.

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL OR SEND A DONATION.

SILENCE?

MUSICIANS BENEVOLENT FUND, 16 OGLE STREET, LONDON W1P 8JB. REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 228089.

TELEPHONE 0171 636 4481

MUSICIANS BENEVOLENT FUND

LEGAL NOTICES

FORDHAM BROTHERS LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION) Registered number: 651495 Nature of business: Building Contractors Trade classification: 33 Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 10th January 1997 Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): Bewil Holdings Limited S.Franklin (5029) & P.Hindes (1518) Joint Administrative Receivers of 6 Stonehouse Square, London WC1A 2LP

IAN ANTHONY (HOLDINGS) LIMITED TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 that- (a) the above named Company has approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase; (b) the amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £225,000 and the resolution approving such a payment out of capital was passed on 10 April 1997; (c) the statutory declaration of the directors and the auditors' report required by section 173 of the said Act are available for inspection at the Company's Registered Office at Carlton House, 141-149 Bradshawgate, Bolton, BL2 1BE; (d) any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following 10 April 1997 apply to the Court under section 176 of the Act for an order prohibiting the payment, Director, on behalf of the Company

The Insolvency Act 1986 ASHOK HOLDINGS LIMITED and MICRO CLINIC SOFTWARE LIMITED (Both In Liquidation) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Chancerhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the above Companies by the members and creditors on 16th April 1997. M R DORRINGTON, Liquidator

THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES

PRIVATE ADVERTISING OPENING TIMES

MONDAY & TUESDAY	9AM-6.30PM
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY	9AM-8PM
FRIDAY	9AM-6PM
SATURDAY	9AM-4PM
SUNDAY	10AM-4PM

TEL: 0171 481 4000 FAX: 0171 782 7799

THE VICEROY'S MOVE TO SIMLA

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

SIMLA, APRIL 21

Simla formally became the summer seat of the Government of India on Saturday, when the Viceroy took up residence at Viceregal Lodge following a few days' visit to Peshawar. During his stay on the frontier the Viceroy flew over the Malakand territory, where the Fakir of Alingar and his insurgents have been in conflict with the British authorities. First-hand reports from the zone of operations indicate that the hostile *lashkar* [tribal force] has now dispersed, the tribesmen having returned to their respective villages among the hills after a futile attempt to convene a *jirga* [tribal council].

The quaint half-English, half-Indian community of Simla is now assuming the characteristics of the capital of India. During the week-end members of the Viceroy's Council and many Government officials arrived. They were preceded by great boxes of official paraphernalia, which appeared to move up hill and down dale by their own volition, but which proved to be borne on the backs of sturdy hillmen with a Tibetan cast of features, whose herculean efforts make possible the annual exodus from the plains to this remote and Swiss-like hamlet, rimmed in by snow-capped mountains. Rickshaws convey officials from the narrow-gauge railway in the valley to the upper ridges of Simla town, depositing them before chalet-like homes, the names of which have remained unaltered since Kipling's time.

Among the arrivals here are Sir Akbar Hydari (Finance Minister of Hyderabad), who is still in direct negotiation with legal advisers in London on matters affecting the Federation. It is clear that he and the States Ministers who have been associated with him in the constitutional discussions are much more satisfied with the position since amendments were made to the Government of India Bill. There remain issues which the Ministers hope will be clarified, but whatever a small coterie of diehard Princes may yet do, the Ministers of the most important States of India are conscientiously striving to secure a Constitution to which their respective Princes will accede. . . .

CELEBRATIONS IN THE EMPIRE

PESHAWAR, APRIL 21

The Jubilee celebrations at Peshawar will include a military tattoo on May 4 and 5 outside the Fort, with a pageant of Khyber Pass history during the past 4,000 years, showing the various invaders who have come through it. The frontier hills are to be illuminated by bonfires, and there will be a Boy Scouts rally, football and hockey tournaments, and a *purdah* fete.

SALISBURY, APRIL 21

The Prime Minister, Mr. Huggins, left Salisbury yesterday afternoon by air to attend the Jubilee celebrations in England. In an address broadcast to children on the eve of his departure Mr. Huggins pointed out that on the occasion of the last jubilee of a British Sovereign Southern Rhodesia had only just been occupied by Europeans.

ON THIS DAY

April 22, 1935

It was the year of King George V's Silver Jubilee. As the Government of India moved to Simla for the summer, all over the old British Empire the King's reign was celebrated. He was warmly greeted wherever he appeared and it is said that this genuinely surprised that modest old monarch.

Turner keeps his sights set on the main prize

IN ASSOCIATION WITH sky sports

MARC ASPLAND



Pallister celebrates his first goal for Manchester United at Anfield — but had you selected him in your ITF team?

THE antics of the hapless David James at Anfield on Saturday may have gone a long way to handing the 1997 FA Carling Premiership title to Manchester United, but in Interactive Team Football, the race is still far from over.

As the season nears its climax, there are 12 selectors who are realistically in contention for the £50,000 prize. Although it would be unwise to write off the chances of those teams lower than twelfth, recent form suggests that they are unlikely to do so.

Mr P. Turner, of St Helier, Jersey, remains the overall leader this week, eight points clear of his nearest rival. However, it will not have gone unnoticed by keen students of ITF that the Nobby teams, under the aegis of Mr J. Brown, have been slowly edging closer towards the top over the past few weeks.

The winner of the £250 weekly prize is Mr D. Ford, with his (inappropriately-named) team Loser's Eleven. Mr Ford scored 35 points over the week.

Mr Ford's team is:

Goalkeeper
M Crossley (Nottm Forest)

Full backs
T McKinlay (Celtic)
D Robertson (Rangers)

Central defenders
T Boyd (Celtic)
A McLaren (Rangers)

Midfield players
D Batty (Newcastle)
R Di Matteo (Chelsea)
J Redknapp (Liverpool)
M Thomas (Liverpool)

Strikers
T Coyne (Motherwell)
I Rush (Leeds)

Manager
R Gullit (Chelsea)

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

IN

61102.....	Dave Watson	Everton	£2.00m

OUT

42608.	Paul Tisdale	Southampton	£0.50m
51104	Paul Rideout	Everton	£2.00m
62303....	Iain Munro	Raith Rovers	£0.50m

LOANED PLAYERS

N Gudmundsson (Blackburn to Ipswich, one week); B O'Neil (Celtic to Nottingham Forest, end of season). *Loan periods subject to fluctuation*

The ITF transfer system allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the **0891 866 968** line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call **0044 990 200 668**.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

☐ ***All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.***

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

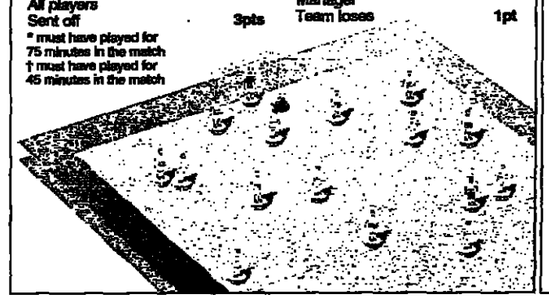
POINTS SCORED

Goalkeeper		Striker	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	All players	
Saves penalty	1pt	Appearance†	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Scores hat-trick	6pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper		Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players		Manager	
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 866 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selectors PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £35 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 50p per minute. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player out..... Player code
Club .....
Player in .....
Club .....

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITIONS THE TIMES

Play Interactive Team Cricket for your chance to win £10,000



Full details of how to enter appear in the 16-page Cricket '97 supplement which was free with last Monday's paper. For a copy call **0171-481 3355**.

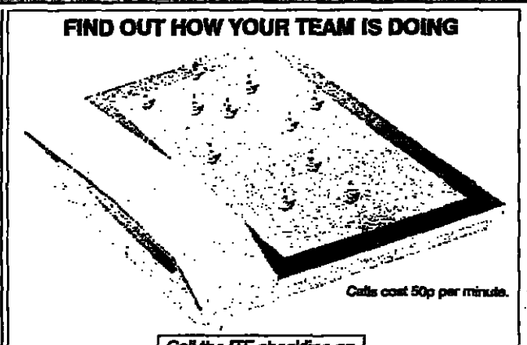
In association with Equity & Law

CHANGING TIMES

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)	749
2	Edmo Utd	(D Edmondson)	741
3	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	739
4	Jones Boys Three	(M Jones)	733
5	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	728
6	Nobby	(J Brown)	726
7=	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	721
7=	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	721
9	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	720
10=	Brain's Team	(B Howes)	716
10=	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	716
12	Pin Ups Two	(P Tusler)	714
13	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	704
14	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	703
15	Nobby 29	(J Brown)	702
16=	Dour Rangers 3	(I Clayton)	700
16=	Nonchalont AFC 3	(R J Ward)	700
16=	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	700
16=	Bob's Boys 2	(R Calder)	700
20	Icarus	(B Wells)	699
21	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	698
22	AB 4	(A Boyland)	697
23	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	693
24	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	692
25=	Beeston Celtic	(B McGivern)	690
25=	Turner's Earners 1	(P Turner)	690
27	Daggers	(V Cox)	689
28	Jabberwocky	(P A Amoss)	688
29	Jones Boys Eight	(M Jones)	680
30	Uni Boys Utd 1	(B Gardiner)	678
31	Abc	(M Baber)	678
32	A	(M Corless)	676
33=	Noah's Ark	(G P Dolan)	674
33=	Partick Bilbao 3	(J Hamilton)	674
33=	Where's Ray Gone?	(P Fromm)	674
33=	Hunter's Mob	(C Hunter)	674
37=	BCFC 1998	(J Bithell)	673
37=	Blythe Spartans	(T Blythe)	673
39=	Inter The Stand	(M Ward)	671
39=	Scholes For Goals	(K Booth)	671
39=	Nobby 23	(J Brown)	671
42	Storm	(P Mills)	670
43	Bladerunners	(P Walters)	669
44=	Teddy Three	(B Bear)	667
44=	Bob's Boys 4	(R Calder)	667
44=	Turner's Earners 6	(P Turner)	667
47	Tur	(P Turner)	666
48	JJB Sports	(A Bates)	665
49=	Watermish FC	(M Kirkwood)	664
49=	Jones Boys Sky	(M Jones)	664
49=	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	664
52	Krystonia 2	(S Roberts)	662
53=	Midfield Magic	(J Pregon)	661
53=	Garforth Seahawks	(I Doughty)	661
55=	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	660
55=	Irwin's Beat	(L Sampson)	660
55=	Club18-30 Tossa	(A Robson)	660
55=	Turner's Earners 4	(P Turner)	660
59=	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	659
59=	Thom Foolery FC	(M Horan)	659
61	Misfits	(R Lockyer)	657
62=	Always Portugal 1	(V Guimaraes)	656
62=	AFC	(M Baber)	656
64=	Bonky Boys	(R Crook)	654
64=	Farr Academicals	(A Kirkwood)	654
66=	You're Not Very Well	(R Laskowski)	653
66=	Jan 2	(J Clayton)	653
68	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	652
69=	Tulip's Tops	(D Tulip)	651
69=	Bob's Boys 1	(R Calder)	651

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Calls cost 50p per minute.

Call the ITF checkline on
0891 884 643
Outside UK: 44 990 100 343

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
69=	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	651
72=	Gestalt	(R Rowe)	650
72=	Concrete Banana	(S Mingle)	650
74	Inter The Wallet	(M Ward)	649
75=	PJB Rovers	(P J Butler)	647
75=	Murray's Mates	(D Anderson)	647
75=	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	647
75=	Caroline B	(A Luckhurst)	647
75=	Elsinore United	(P Leader)	647
75=	Bob's Boys 3	(R Calder)	647
75=	Man City Free Zone	(D Ingham)	647
82	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	645
83=	Born Losers	(P Farkins)	644
83=	Joking	(P Fallen)	644
83=	1970 Jr FC	(J Ross)	644
86=	Set Against Cys	(S Shipley)	643
86=	Orvieto Classico	(J Bradshaw)	643
86=	The Dummies 1	(D Shiels)	643
89=	Enid Four	(J Feather)	642
89=	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	642
89=	Nobby J	(J Brown)	642
92=	Ball Watchers	(J Murray)	641
92=	Bubwith Utd 5	(M Larcombe)	641
92=	Inter The Unknown	(P Barnett)	641
92=	Mars FC	(M Baber)	641
96=	Brainbows United	(G Wales)	640
96=	Infinity George	(M Robson)	640
98=	Jones Boys One	(M Jones)	639
98=	Team C	(A Lone)	639
98=	Doppelgangereutd	(J Whaling)	639
98=	Val3	(K Howson)	639
102=	Nail Madrid	(N Ratcliffe)	638
102=	Nobby 25	(J Brown)	638
102=	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	638
105=	DJS 2	(D Senton)	637
105=	PJ Thistle	(R Newbould)	637
107=	Enid 2	(J Hagger)	636
107=	Langton Longballs	(M Ward)	636
109=	Simbe's Dream	(C A Kitchen)	635
109=	Sam Shanks	(S Shankar)	635
109=	Raj Is Back To Kill 6	(R Gohil)	635

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
109=	Def Con 3	(M Peck)	635
109=	Animals	(L Clark)	635
109=	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	635
115=	Caroline D	(A Luckhurst)	634
115=	AJK	(K Hughes)	634
115=	A2	(K Farhall)	634
115=	LFC Champs 9697	(B Fazakerley)	634
119=	Murray's Magicians	(M MacMillan)	633
119=	Top Banana	(M Bottomley)	633
121=	Glen Duffers	(S Wilson)	632
121=	I Hate Alan Hansen	(V Cox)	632
121=	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	632
124=	No Midfield	(J B Portwood)	631
124=	NST Monkstone	(J Staszkiewicz)	631
126=	Caught Lucky	(C Wright)	630
126=	Ebbey's 1st XI	(S Baldrick)	630
128=	Byzantine Bricks	(S Houghton)	629
128=	Bob's Boys 5	(R Calder)	629
130=	Bennet Bhoys	(A Sharpe)	627
130=	Airstr	(I Pyfe)	627
132=	Inter The Bin	(M Ward)	626
132=	Agapanthus FC	(W Heslop)	626
134=	Mmm Fantasy Leaguers	(M Madden)	625
134=	Kinky Imports	(S Fraser)	625
134=	Foxy	(M Fox)	625
137=	Caroline C	(S A Luckhurst)	624
137=	Northern Lights	(C Wright)	624
137=	Raj Is Back To Kill 5	(R Gohil)	624
137=	John Hunt Taunton A	(J Hunt)	624
141=	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohil)	623
141=	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swirles)	623
141=	Alice	(I Pigeon)	623
144=	Come On You Rocks	0	622
144=	Grafton Willows	(R J Brown)	622
144=	Inter Outers	(R Johnson)	622
144=	Goaldiggers	(D Curzon)	622
144=	Skyforest	(A Burton)	622
149=	Bacardi Boys	(M Woodley)	621
149=	Star Chamber	(M MacMillan)	621
149=	CUCK	(G Wales)	621
149=	Billy No Mates XI	(M Brenner)	621
149=	Buggle Nawvies	(D Banks)	621
154=	The Far Side	(C Hadfield)	620
154=	Gangsters	(A Lone)	620
154=	Porcelain Dogs	(A Ibison)	620
154=	Cookie's Gunners	(S Cook)	620
158=	Wingless Wonders	(P Paynter)	619
158=	Diplomatic Risk	(G Prichard)	619
158=	Bob Hope And No Hope	(T Blythe)	619
158=	Val1	(K Howson)	619
162=	Patel One	(P Patel)	618
162=	Holstenites	(D Blair)	618
162=	Bung Hol	(G Watson)	618
162=	Nobby 34	(J Brown)	618
166=	JD 3	(J Donaldson)	617
166=	S Gill Taunton A	(S Gill)	617
168	Daniele Selshans	(V Cox)	616
169=	RKV 3	(C Vanezis)	615
169=	The Loggers	(C Wright)	615
171=	Triple Top Tan	(P Bailey)	614
171=	Supersubs	(I Taylor)	614
171=	Drake5	(D Edbrookestainer)	614
174=	Papadopoulos Utd	(A Papadopoulos)	613
174=	Shot On Sight 2	(P Goldstraw)	613
174=	Robzteam2	(R Preston)	613
174=	Lesley's Legmen	(L Michaelis)	613
178=	Yahboysir	(G Davidson)	612
178=	Dutch Courage	(R van Rutlenbeek)	612
180=	Fendon United	(E Cowan)	611
180=	Das Boot	(D A Sutton)	611

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
180=	St Bartholomews	(J M Bartholomew)	611
180=	Oct95-ITF Champi	(M Sladden)	611
180=	Sucharita	(R Keenan)	611
180=	Xpat Missiles	(M Jackson)	611
186=	Layton's Lions 7	(R Layton)	610
186=	Dave's First XI	(D Quibell)	610
186=	Dicksaaa Tigers	(T Rawlings)	610
186=	Three Tabletoppers	(M A Kennedy)	610
190=	Grimmers Army	(S Gray)	609
190=	Totted Five	(E Kisby)	609
190=	Lynne's Lions	(L Hiorns)	609
190=	Hawk	(P Williamson)	609
190=	Schoko Zoo	(P Roach)	609
195=	Alancia FC	(A Stillano)	608
195=	Wassack	(M Hugill)	608
195=	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	608
195=	Demolition Men	(J Murray)	608
195=	Bubwith Utd 3	(M Larcombe)	608
195=	Tungaton Town	(J W George)	608
195=	Best Defence	(J Pregon)	608
195=	Kingsbury Tn 1	(D F King)	608
203=	Mapflappers	(P Reid)	607
203=	Back In Bristol	(D Stone)	607
203=	Roberts-Team 1	(M Roberts)	607
203=	Dimitymo Moscow	(D Wilson)	607
207=	No Help From Dad FC	(A du Gay)	606
207=	What Ford Splash	(N P Lewis)	606
209=	Nadar	(A Meviazaid)	605
209=	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swirles)	605
209=	Hisham's Haggis	(H A Rahim)	605
209=	Ravn's Dream Team	(M Ravn)	605
209=	Inverness Undecided	(M A Kennedy)	605
209=	Skyline Sizzlers	(T Gordon)	605
209=	Fortune Hunters	(K Farhall)	605
216=	Celtic Fowlers	(G Thomas)	604
216=	Buggsy's Boys	(L Emery)	604
216=	The Winners VW	(V Wadhwa)	604
216=	Lloydy's Barge	(D Goodwin)	604
216=	March Pass	(M McGovern)	604
216=	John Hunt Taunton B	(J Hunt)	604
222=	Crooky Boys	(R Crook)	603
222=	Jack's Nightmare	(N J Lane)	603
222=	Sad & Grim Team	(J Swain)	603
222=	Sooty's Puppets II	(E G Ryan)	603
222=	Botak United 1	(J Pull)	603
222=	Hannah's Heroes	(C Bennett)	603
222=	Nellie's Heroes	(I Fox)	603
229=	The Instructors	(K Cunion)	602
229=	Kicking Arsenal	(R Broe)	602
229=	Dwyer's Tipsters	(J Dwyer)	602
229=	Dynamo Hibe	(S Miller)	602
229=	Clive From Down Under	(K James)	602
229=	Dodd's Aces	(C Dodd)	602
235=	Wolf Tones Utd	(T Prior)	601
235=	Beam Up	(L Strathy)	601
235=	Toby's Terrors 7	(P Wheatley)	601
235=	Sue's Stars	(S Latham)	601
235=	The Dansters	(C C Vevers)	601
240=	Red Star Storm	(P Mills)	600
240=	Davsio Unt 1	(D Sloan)	600
240=	Real Ale Ripon	(C Blackshaw)	600
240=	Rubella	(T Wylie)	600
240=	Solid Saints	(P Ridout)	600
245=	The Wee Rovers	(D O'Donnell)	599
245=	AC Cambridge	(L Hoe)	599
245=	Flying Pigs	(M Macmillan)	599
245=	Inter The Net	(M Ward)	599
245=	Franck FC	(N Foord)	599
245=	Aiaxpool	(C Strachan)	599

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option



Kitson, right, of West Ham United, has been a useful asset to many ITF selectors since his transfer to Upton Park

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-12
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0	-14
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-1	+39
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0	+1
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+24
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	-1	+19
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	-1
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+4
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0	-1
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	+5	+31
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+10
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	-27
10603	F Grodas	Chelsea	3.00	-6	-11
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-3	-36
10702	J Filan	Coventry City	0.50	0	0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	-7
10802	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	-5	-41
10804	M Poom	Derby County	1.00	0	-2
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	+4
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	-10
10903	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.50	+4	0
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	0	-55
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-3	-28
11103	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	+1
11201	G Rousset	Hearts	2.00	-2	-5
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	-1	-24
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	+3	-36
11501	M Beeney	Leeds United	1.50	0	+5
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	-4	+31
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	-3	-19
11603	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	0	-18
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-6	+15
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0
11703	J Nielsen	Liverpool	1.00	0	0
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-1	+6
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0	+2
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-20
11903	B Roberts	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1	-5
11904	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	-3
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	-1	-22
12101	S Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00	-2	-18
12102	P Smicek	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	-49
12202	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	-1	-3
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	-11	-74
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	+29
12402	A Dibble	Rangers	3.50	+5	+10
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-1	+1
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0	-28
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	+2
12604	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	-3	-2
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	+4	-41
11803	A Coton	Sunderland	1.00	0	+9
12601	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	-1	-13
12802	E Baardsen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
12901	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.00	-3	-26
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	+1	0
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-4

DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
20101	S McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+8
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	-1	+39
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+49
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+39
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+61
20303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0
20305	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	-1	+44
20401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+26
20402	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+29
20403	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+22
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+2
20501	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	+4	+39
20502	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.00	+4	+23
20601	D Petrescu	Chelsea	3.00	0	+20
20602	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.00	0	+7
20604	S Minto	Chelsea	1.00	+2	-4
20701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-10
20703	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.00	-1	-10
20704	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	+6
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	+6
20802	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	+4
20901	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	+4	+55
20902	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	+4	+44
20903	N Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	+4	+11
21001	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0	-5
21002	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	0	-11
21101	M Hottiger	Everton	2.50	0	-6
21102	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	0	+14
20603	T Phelan	Everton	2.00	0	-1
21103	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	-1	+18
21201	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	0	+25
21202	N Pointon	Hearts	1.00	0	+24
21301	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	0	+7
21302	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	0	+12
21402	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	+3	-5
21501	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	0	+43
21502	A Dorigo	Leeds United	2.50	-1	+13
21504	G Halle	Leeds United	1.00	-1	+32
21601	M Whitlow	Leicester City	0.50	0	+5
21602	S Grayson	Leicester City	0.50	-1	+10
21604	F Rolling	Leicester City	0.25	0	0
21701	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	-1	-1
21702	S Harkness	Liverpool	1.50	-2	-3
21703	S I Bjornebye	Liverpool	0.50	-2	+46
21801	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00	0	+40
21802	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	-1	+31
21803	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	0
21901	N Cox	Middlesbrough	2.50	0	-11
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-1
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+9
21905	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.25	0	+10
21906	V Kinder	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+2
22002	S McMillan	Motherwell	0.50	0	+6
22101	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4
22102	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+21
22103	R Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50	+3	+16
22104	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7
22201	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.00	0	+11
22202	D Lyttle	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+5
22203	A I Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	+20
22204	N Jerkan	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	-4
22301	P Bonar	Raith Rovers	0.75	-5	-16
22302	D Kirkwood	Raith Rovers	0.50	-1	-12
22401	D Robertson	Rangers	2.50	+7	+45
22402	J Brown	Rangers	2.00	0	0
22501	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+29
22502	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+32
22503	S Nicol	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+11
22504	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+10
22505	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3
22601	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	-1	-8
22602	F Benali	Southampton	0.75	-1	-2
22603	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	0	+4
22701	D Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50	0	+5
22702	M Scott	Sunderland	0.50	0	+4
22703	G Hall	Sunderland	0.25	+4	+6
22704	J Eriksson	Sunderland	1.50	0	-1
22801	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+4
22802	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+12
22803	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	-1	+11
22804	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
22805	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	-3
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	4.00	0	+23
22902	T Breacker	West Ham United	1.00	0	+3
22903	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	0	-4
22904	M Bowen	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+9
23002	A Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75	+2	+13
23003	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	+2	+27
23004	D Jupp	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
23006	C Perry	Wimbledon	0.25	+4	+40

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
30101	B Irvine	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-6
30102	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	1.50	-2	+1
30103	A Kombouare	Aberdeen	2.50	-2	+1
30201	A Adams	Arsenal	4.00	0	+43
30202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+41
30203	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	0	+50
30205	S Marshall	Arsenal	1.00	0	+14
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	+1	+38
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+66
30305	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+28
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+32
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-1	+3
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+6
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	+4	+33
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	0	+37
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	+4	+23
30504	B O'Neil	Celtic	3.00	0	+1
30505	E Annoni	Celtic	3.00	0	+4
30601	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	0	+1
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	-2	+29
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	-3	-6
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	+1	+1
30606	E Johnsen	Chelsea	1.50	-2	+13
30701	L Dalsh	Coventry City	2.00	0	+5
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-2	+3
30704	G Breen	Coventry City	1.50	0	-1
30705	A Evtushok	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1
30801	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50	0	-10
30802	D Wassall	Derby County	1.00	0	0
30303	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	-2	-4
30803	J Laursen	Derby County	1.00	-2	+8
30804	M Carbon	Derby County	0.50	0	-5
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	-1	+50
31001	M Millar	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-6
31002	I Den Bleman	Dunfermline	0.75	-1	-18
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	-4	+12
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-1	+14
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	0	+6
31201	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00	-1	+30
31202	P Ritchie	Hearts	1.00	-1	+34
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	+7
30902	B Welsh	Hibernian	0.75	0	+9
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0	-3
32302	S Dennis	Hibernian	1.00	0	-19
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	+4	+11
31402	R Montgomerie	Kilmarnock	0.75	+3	+11
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	-1	+34
31502	R Jobson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2
31503	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	-1	+22
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0
31505	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00	-1	+23
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	0	+12
31602	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00	0	+8
31603	P Kaamark	Leicester City	0.50	-1	+5
31604	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	-1	+1
31605	M Elliott	Leicester City	1.50	-1	+6
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	+24
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	-2	+30
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	0	+14
31705	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00	0	+26
31706	B T Kvarme	Liverpool	2.00	-2	+3
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	+5	+15
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	0	+34
31803	R Johnsen	Manchester United	2.50	0	+21
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+3
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-10
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-10
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4
31905	G Festa	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+8
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	0	-4
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0	+18
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+16
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+17
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+5
32202	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	+10
32203	S Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-5
32303	D Craig	Raith Rovers	0.50	-5	-12
32304	G Mitchell	Raith Rovers	0.50	-5	-10
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	0	+57
32402	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	+4	+23
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	+4	+39
32404	G Petric	Rangers	2.50	+4	+18
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+15
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+32
32503	B Linighan	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	-18
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	0	+3
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0	-2
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50	-1	-1
32605	U van Gobbel	Southampton	1.50	-1	-16
32701	A Melville	Sunderland	1.00	0	+12
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	1.00	+4	+10
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	+4	+14
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+20
31702	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	+9
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+14
32803	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
32806	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-6
32807	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	+3	+2
32901	S Bilic	West Ham United	2.50	-2	+10
32902	M Rieper	West Ham United	2.50	-1	+8
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	-1	-1
32904	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	-1	+1
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	-1	+3
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	-2	-2
33003	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+16
33005	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+12
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0

FORWARDS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
40503	S Donnelly	Celtic	2.50	+4	+34
40504	P Grant	Celtic	1.50	0	+26
40505	P Di Canio	Celtic	3.00	+1	+57
40506	D Hannah	Celtic	1.50	+2	+14
40507	P O'Donnell	Celtic	2.50	+2	+10
40601	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	0	+9
40602	D Wise	Chelsea	3.00	0	+40
40604	C Burley	Chelsea	2.00	+3	+37
40605	E Newton	Chelsea	2.00	0	+20
40607	D Rocastle	Chelsea	0.50	0	0
40608	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00	+2	+56
40609	J Morris	Chelsea	2.00	+2	+3
40610	P Hughes	Chelsea	2.00	+2	+6
40701	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	0	+32
41501	G McAllister	Coventry City	5.50	+1	+57
40702	E Jess	Coventry City	2.00	0	+32
40703	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	0	+35
40704	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+33
40705	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+32
40706	M Isaias	Coventry City	0.50	0	0
40707	W Boland	Coventry City	0.25	0	0
40708	M O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1
40801	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.00	0	+50
40802	P Simpson	Derby County	1.50	0	+5
40803	R van der Laan	Derby County	1.50	+1	+28
40804	D Powell	Derby County	1.00	+1	+28
40805	S Flynn	Derby County	0.75	0	+12
40807	G Rowett	Derby County	0.50	+1	+36
40809	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	+1	+36
40901	G McSwegan	Dundee United	2.00	+1	+28
40902	R Winters	Dundee United	1.50	+2	+65
40903	G Johnson	Dundee United	1.00	0	0
42003	J Dolan	Dundee United	1.00	+3	+30
42303	J McInally	Dundee United	0.75	0	+19
40904	D Bowman	Dundee United	0.75	0	+24
40905	A Benneker	Dundee United	0.50	0	+2
41001	H French	Dunfermline	1.00	+1	+44
41002	C Robertson	Dunfermline	1.00	+1	+35
41003	A Smith	Dunfermline	0.75	0	+48
41004	D Fleming	Dunfermline	0.50	+1	+29
41102	G Speed	Everton	4.00	+1	+65
41104	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	+31
41106	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+11
41108	C Thomsen	Everton	2.00	+1	+13
41202	A McManus	Hearts	1.50	0	+7
41203	S Fulton	Hearts	1.00	+1	+34
41302	P McGinlay	Hibernian	1.50	0	+41
41303	G Love	Hibernian	0.75	0	+9
41305	I Cameron	Hibernian	0.75	0	+10
41401	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	+25
41402	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	1.00	+3	+39
41403	M Skilling	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	0
41404	J Lauchlan	Kilmarnock	0.50	0	+11
41502	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00	+1	+55
41503	A Gray	Leeds United	2.50	0	+1
41504	C Palmer	Leeds United	2.00	+1	+28
41505	R Wallace	Leeds United	1.50	0	+34
41506	L Sharpe	Leeds United	3.50	+1	+46
41507	I Harte	Leeds United	1.00	0	+19
41508	M Ford	Leeds United	0.50	0	+19
41510	A Couzens	Leeds United	0.50	0	+8
41601	M Jackson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+10
41602	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	+1	+33
41603	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	+1	+34
41604	S Taylor	Leicester City	2.00	0	+21
40606	J Lawrence	Leicester City	0.25	0	+3
41701	M Izzet	Leicester City	1.00	+1	+42
41702	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	+2	+56
41703	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	+1	+45
41704	J Redknapp	Liverpool	4.00	+4	+27
41705	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+4	+55
41706	M Thomas	Liverpool	2.50	+2	+36
41707	M Kennedy	Liverpool	1.00	0	0
41801	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	0	+27
41802	R Giggs	Manchester United	7.00	0	+43
41803	R Keane	Manchester United	4.50	+1	+20
41804	D Beckham	Manchester United	4.00	+1	+57
41805	N Butt	Manchester United	3.50	+1	+34
41806	B McClair	Manchester United	1.50	0	+9
41807	T Cooke	Manchester United	1.00	0	0
41808	B Thornley	Manchester United	1.00	0	+1
41809	S Davies	Manchester United	0.50	0	0
41810	J Cruyff	Manchester United	2.50	0	+17
41811	K Poborsky	Manchester United	4.00	0	+27
41901	Emerson	Middlesbrough	3.50	+1	+31
41902	Juninho	Middlesbrough	3.50	0	+59
41903	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+28
41905	A Moore	Middlesbrough	1.00	-1	+6
41906	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	1.00	+1	+33
41908	C Liddle	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+6
41909	B Robson	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+1
41910	P Stamp	Middlesbrough	0.50	+1	+21
42001	C McCart	Motherwell	2.00	0	+16
42002	J Philliben	Motherwell	1.00	0	+14
42004	J Hendry	Motherwell	0.75	0	+4
42005	S Vallkarri	Motherwell	3.00	+1	+9
42101	D Ginola	Newcastle United	5.50	0	+24
42102	R Lee	Newcastle United	5.50	+2	+47
42103	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+29
42104	D Batty	Newcastle United	3.00	+2	+27
42105	L Clark	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+21
42107	D Hamilton	Newcastle United	1.50	0	0
42201	I Woan	Nottingham Forest	4.50	0	+35
42202	S Stone	Nottingham Forest	4.00	0	+2
42203	S Gemmill	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+1	+16
42204	C Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest	2.00	+1	+21
42205	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest	1.00	+1	+28
42301	T Rougier	Raith Rovers	2.00	+1	+33
42302	D Lennon	Raith Rovers	1.00	+1	+46
41304	A Millen	Raith Rovers	0.50	+1	+25
42304	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	+26
42401	P Gascoigne	Rangers	7.00	0	+58
42402	B Laudrup	Rangers	5.00	+3	+71
42403	S McCall	Rangers	2.00	0	+9
42404	T Steven	Rangers	1.50	0	+8
42405	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00	0	+59
42501	R Blinker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+1	+17
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+49
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+29
42506	M Williams	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
42507	R Jones	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
42508	S Oakes	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+10
42509	W Collins	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	+13
42510	O Trustfull	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+4	+17
42511	B Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+1	+34
42512	D Billington	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
42601	J Magilton	Southampton	2.50	0	+41
42604	B Venison	Southampton	1.00	0	0
42606	D Hughes	Southampton	0.50	0	+1
42906	R Slater	Southampton	1.00	+1	+19
42607	M Oakley	Southampton	0.50	+1	+30
42608	P Tisdale	Southampton	0.50	0	0
42609	M Robinson	Southampton	0.25	0	+6
42611	E Berkovic	Southampton	1.00	+1	+31
42701	M Gray	Sunderland	2.50	+1	+42
42702	S Agnew	Sunderland	1.50	0	+16
42703	A Rae	Sunderland	1.50	0	+14
42704	P Bracewell	Sunderland	0.75	+2	+43
42705	M Smith	Sunderland	1.00	0	+9
42706	C Waddle	Sunderland	1.50	+2	+4
42801	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	5.50	0	+18
42802	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	0	+26
42803	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+1	+36
42804	J Dozzell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+1	+14
42805	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+1	+41
42806	R Rosenthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+10
42809	A Nielsen	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+42
42902	I Bishop	West Ham United	2.00	0	+33
42903	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+1	+38
42904	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.50	0	+17
42905	J Moncur	West Ham United	1.50	+1	+21
42907	S Lazaridis	West Ham United	0.25	0	+15
42908	S Lomas	West Ham United	2.00	+1	+4
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.00	0	+66
43002	O Leonhardsen	Wimbledon	2.50	+3	+48
43003	M Gayle	Wimbledon	2.00	+3	+66
43004	V Jones	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+35
43005	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.50	+3	+50
43006	S Castledine	Wimbledon	0.50	+3	+5
43007	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.25	+3	+9

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
50101	S Booth	Aberdeen	4.50	0	+12
50102	D Shearer	Aberdeen	3.00	0	+7
50103	W Dodds	Aberdeen	5.00	+1	+35
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.00	0	+64
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.00	0	+43
50205	C Kiwomya	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
50206	N Anelka	Arsenal	3.00	0	0
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	7.50	+3	+76
50302	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	5.00	+1	+42
50304	J Joachim	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+11
50402	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+1	+54
50404	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+41
50405	G Fenton	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+3
50406	N Gudmundsson	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	0
50407	P Pedersen	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+8
50502	J Cadete	Celtic	6.00	+5	+82
50303	T Johnson	Celtic	4.00	0	+20
50601	G Vialli	Chelsea	5.00	+1	+42
50602	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	+4	+55
50605	M Stein	Chelsea	0.50	0	0
50606	G Zola	Chelsea	5.00	+1	+50
50701	N Whelan	Coventry City	6.00	+3	+41
50702	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00	+1	+40
50703	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	3.00	+3	+8
52105	D Huckerby	Coventry City	0.50	0	+35
50801	D Sturridge	Derby County	3.00	+3	+47
50802	M Gabbiadini	Derby County	2.00	0	+7
50803	A Ward	Derby County	2.00	+1	+38
50804	R Willems	Derby County	1.00	0	+18
50903	K Olafsson	Dundee United	3.00	+2	+19
51001	A Moore	Dunfermline	2.00	+1	+13
51002	S Petrie	Dunfermline	2.00	0	+26
51101	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	+6	+47
51901	N Barmby	Everton	4.00	+1	+43
51102	G Stuart	Everton	3.00	0	+37
51104	P Rideout	Everton	2.00	0	+4
51105	M Branch	Everton	1.50

NEWS

Santer attacks 'doom merchants'

■ Jacques Santer was accused of interfering in British politics when he entered the general election minefield with a fierce attack on Eurosceptic "doom merchants" that was eagerly exploited by John Major and criticised by Labour.

The European Commission president was accused of interfering in British politics as he attacked people who were *intent on demeaning* Europe's "formidable" political and economic successes ..... **Pages 1, 9-15, 22, 23**

Election day alert after IRA phone blitz

■ A huge intelligence and policing operation is under way to stop the IRA disrupting polling on May 1. Measures already being taken were given greater urgency by the chaos the terrorist group caused *in London and the South East during* yesterday morning's rush-hour ..... **Pages 1, 2**

Youngest sports star

Katy Parker of Preston, a 12-year-old table-tennis player, will become the youngest English athlete to play in a *world championship* ..... **Page 1**

Clear targets

Britain's oldest canal is to be dyed khaki or blue in an attempt to protect the fish from being plun*dered by cormorants before an*glers can catch them..... **Page 6**

Campaign Laurel

Laurel and Hardy join the election today in a Labour advertisement that echoes a very similar *Times* cartoon..... **Page 1**

Bridgewater appeal

A group of police officers known as "The Syndicate" pressurised an innocent man into confessing involvement in the murder of Carl Bridgewater, the Court of Appeal was told ..... **Page 8**

Rapist sentenced

A psychopath who planned to stalk and rob famous women, including the actress Fiona Fullerton, was sent to Rampton high-security mental hospital indefinitely. Rodney Barnes was known as the Mayfair rapist..... **Page 3**

Lost generation

A million children are in public care in Eastern Europe, hundreds of thousands live on the streets and drug and alcohol abuse among adolescents has reached record levels, a Unicef report says..... **Page 17**

Boy George sued

The rock musician Kirk Brandon, who is suing Boy George for malicious falsehood, admitted in court that he shared a bed with him..... **Page 3**

Netanyahu unbowed

The Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, has emerged *from the country's most serious* political scandal with his power undiminished..... **Page 17**

Charity's £8m fight

The RSPCA is locked in a legal battle with the widow of an Australian businessmen over £8 million he decided to leave to the animal charity days before his death..... **Page 3**

Rebels sell rights

Mining multinationals have signed deals for mineral rights with Zaire's rebel leader in what is being termed a second scramble for Africa ..... **Page 18**

Wealth before health

Doctors believe they are being turned into "technical monkeys" by clipboard-toting managers more interested in number-*crunching than healthy patients*, the BMA says..... **Page 5**

French election

President Chirac announced early legislative elections in a attempt to give him a clear *mandate to lead France into a* single currency..... **Page 19**

Chocolate carrot makes tasteful debut

■ Chocolate-flavoured carrots have gone on sale as part of a drive to turn the vegetable-resistant children of today into the *cancer-resistant adults of tomorrow. Backed by the Cancer* Research Campaign, the carrots are the most bizarre of a range of four flavours aimed at the palates of children who shun vegetables and fail to absorb enough vitamin C ..... **Page 6**

ALAIN ROBERT/REUTER



Michel Rieu, a wine producer in Vaucluse, inspects buds damaged by frosts that hit vineyards across the South of France at the weekend. Page 17

BUSINESS

Building profits: Shares in Alliance & Leicester, the former building society, traded at 566½p on the first day of trading, higher even than the 520p recently predicted **Page 29**

Property: MEPC, the property giant, is to take a £73 million charge in an effort to sort out its high financing costs..... **Page 29**

Co-op: The Co-operative Wholesale Society raised the stakes in its fight to fend off a takeover bid by Andrew Regan, the 31-year-old entrepreneur, by threatening to call in the Serious Fraud Office ... **Page 29**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 18.2 to close at 4328.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 99.8 to 99.5 after a rise from $1.6310 to $1.6348 but a fall from DM2.7991 to DM2.7824..... **Page 32**

SPORT

Football: David James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, paid the price for his disastrous slump in form when he was left out of the England squad for the World Cup qualifying match against Georgia **Page 56**

Snooker: Ronnie O'Sullivan made the fastest 147 maximum break in snooker history during his victory over Mick Price at the Embassy world championship ..... **Page 56**

Cricket: Rain and bad light ruined a potentially exciting finish to the England A v The Rest match at Edgbaston..... **Page 52.**

Rugby union: Nick Popplewell, of Newcastle and Ireland, has been summoned to appear before a disciplinary panel of the Rugby Football Union after he punched an opponent earlier this month..... **Page 50.**

ARTS

Saintly sinner: The National Gallery is devoting an entire exhibition to one small work — Dürer's *Saint Jerome*, with its overriding mood of suspense and fragility ..... **Page 37**

Public eye: Walter Moseley, creator of President Clinton's favourite fictional private detective, spends more time these days being a black American icon..... **Page 37**

Dizzy spell: Alfred Hitchcock's haunting 1958 film *Vertigo*, which was ordered to be destroyed by Paramount, has been restored in a three-year labour of love... **Page 38**

Maria remembered: At 17 Terrence McNally queued for three days to get into Maria Callas's opera debut at the Met. Now his play about her, *Master Class*, has reached London..... **Page 39**

FEATURES

Old together: In part two of our series on marriage, John Bayley, husband of Iris Murdoch for 40 years, reflects on the role of humour in a relationship..... **Page 20**

Late again Your husband arrives home from work — and he is late again. Do you accuse him of being continually inconsiderate or do you commiserate with him about his heavy workload? ..... **Page 20**

As years go by: When Noreen Taylor interviewed Marianne Faithfull in the Seventies, "Rock star in death overdose" headlines seemed imminent. Now the singer is back with a sellout tour. **Page 21**

LAW

Labour's law: Who will win the top legal posts in the land if Labour takes power? ..... **Page 43**

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Sheep on show: When a busy road junction was created near Michael and Julie Turner's farm, they decided their best hope was to turn their 400 acres into a tourist attraction..... **Page 41**

THE PAPERS

Tony Blair can hardly be beaten in this election. But for the first time since he became party leader three years ago he faces a serious problem with his image. Like Bill Clinton he is trying to please everyone, and runs the risk of becoming too smooth — *Der Spiegel*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Dr Jack Kevorkian, the doctor who has assisted in nearly 50 suicides, is the subject of *Witness* (Channel 4, 9pm); **Review:** Lynne Truss hails Jemma Redgrave's return as *Bramwell*..... **Pages 54, 55**

OPINION

Democracy's double

Although Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, and Dr Joe Hendron, the SDLP candidate for West Belfast, are, in every respect, many miles apart they deserve to be sitting together in the next House of Commons... **Page 23**

Escape forwards

Binyamin Netanyahu first won office as the candidate who stood for peace with security. If he can deliver that combination then his moral standing and political status could be recaptured ..... **Page 23**

Eat up your chocolates

Chocolate-flavoured carrots may tempt the childish tooth on to more grown-up mixed eating such as lobster thermidor, paella, Bombay duck and Welsh rarebit. These will also be more expensive ..... **Page 23**

COLUMNS

ANATOLE KALETSKY

The catalogue of tactical errors, misjudgments, confusion and pathetically ineffectual leadership under John Major just goes on and on ..... **Page 22**

ROGER SCRUTON

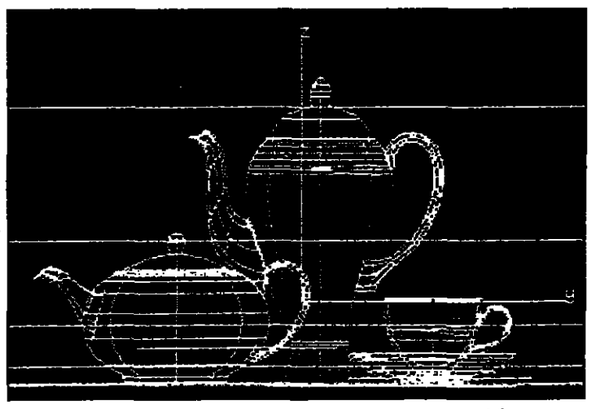
My ideal party is not fired by the ambition to reform institutions, but by a desire to conserve them. It does not tinker with things long established and rarely complained of, knowing that it is always easier to destroy than to create. It contains educated people, but erects barriers against the half-educated — those hyperactive intellects who know enough to ask questions but not enough to understand that the real questions are unanswerable ..... **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Mary Thomas, Welsh mezzo-so*prano*, ***Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Hardy-Roberts***, Master of the Queen's Household, **Zdenek Mlynar**, Czech politician..... **Page 25**

LETTERS

Architects' monopoly; fishing quotas; Paul Sykes's reply on Eurosceptic MPs; the science of prayer; Camra on licensing laws; rationing water ..... **Page 23**



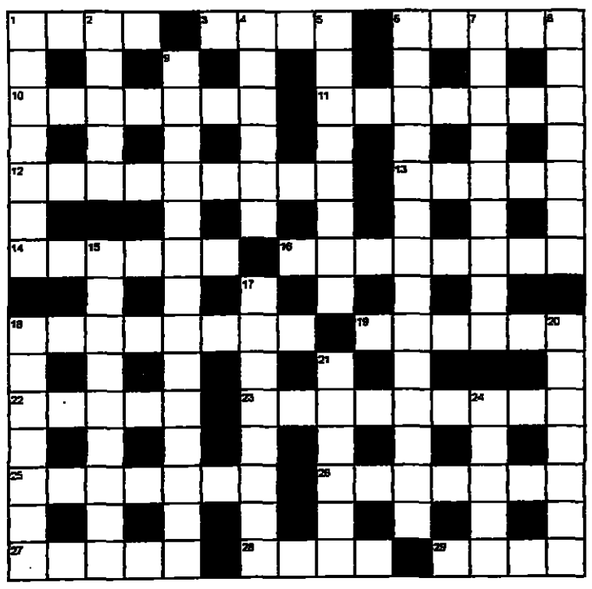
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **INTERFACE**
The weekly IT section reveals how computers are developing the new china syndrome

■ **HOMES**
An old brickworks in the Fens is the site of one of Europe's biggest housing projects

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,460



ACROSS

1 A way through on foot (4).
3 Samuel's teacher has a name for writing essays (4).
6 Family of four girls, followed by three more (5).
10 Vain advice to the prodigal (7).
11 Movie queen from the continent (7).
12 A choice literary gathering (9).
13 Woman who has to polish hard (5).
14 Wit of turbulent priest (6).
16 They're essential to one's standing as a rider (8).
18 Specified limitation of ownership in legal document (8).
19 View a risky venture with trepidation at first (6).
22 Come out with me repeatedly to have a drink (5).
23 Broken rule again leads to suffering (9).
25 Italian leader to return call about civil disorder (7).
26 Bird that's flown approximately East over head (7).
27 Builder of a lodge (5).
28 Play in afternoon, or the other way round (4).
29 The advantage of keenness (4).

DOWN

1 Extravagantly laud goddess thus? (7).
2 Conservative-Labour rift (5).
4 In-service instruction (6).
5 They should be able to identify any salts in a *mixture* (8).
6 Business studies (6,8).
7 Total confidence initial odds must be switched? Goodness! (9).
8 Premonitions Rigoletto and Richard III had (7).
9 Break-up of force and loss of rank after accepting false alibis (14).
15 Communicate what some crossword answers are (3,6).
17 What Cinderella became after twelve (8).
18 Edward lifted small firm with spirit and dignity (7).
20 Bar for a daring young high-flier (7).
21 Place of interest it's the custom to be silent going round (6).
24 Spaceman showed open-mouthed wonder (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 56

Solution to Puzzle No 20,459

F	U	N	G	U	S		P	E	N	D	U	L	U	M
	N	A	C		R		E		I		U			
H	E	L	L	H	O	L	E		W	A	N	T	E	D
	V		L		T		E		N		E	S		
	E		O		F		M	I	N	S	T	R	E	L
S	N	O	W	D	R	O	P		H		A		I	
E		A		E		T		J		T		N		
P	L	A	Y	P	E	N		T	I	P	P	I	N	G
T		N		A		C		L		R		E		
E		A		R		O	N	L	O	O	K	E	R	
N	E	G	A	T	I	O	N		I		M		S	
N		R		T		I		N		I		G		
I	S	A	T	I	N		F	O	O	T	S	L	O	G
A		M		M		E		I		E		R		
L	I	S	T	E	N	E	R		S	E	D	A	T	E

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather- All regions	0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions	0336 401 410
Inside M25	0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads	0336 401 747
National Motorways	0336 401 748
Continental Europe	0336 401 910
Channel crossing	0336 401 388
Motoring to Heathrow & Gatwick airports	0336 407 505

Weather by Fax The Met. Office

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax

West Country	416 334	Scotland	416 340
Wales	416 335	N. Ireland	416 341
Midlands	416 336	London	416 342
East Anglia	416 337		
N.West	416 338	National Satellite Weather picture	416 397
N. East	416 339		
Metfax Marine Inshore leisure forecasts			416 398

World City Weather The Met. Office

153 destinations world wide
6 day forecast

by Phone dial	0336 411216
by Fax (index page)	0336 416333

Motoring

Europe Country by Country	0336 401 885
European fuel costs	0336 401 886
French Motorways	0336 401 887
Seaport information	0336 401 892
Disneyland Paris	0336 401 409
Le Shuttle	0336 401 895

AA Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA menu of 195 cars 0336 416 399

Dial from your fax handset, you may have to set to poll receive mode

AA Developments Ltd, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9NY

Calls are charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Madley, Hereford & Worcester, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Aultbea and Cape Wrath, Highland, 0.2in; highest sunshine: Shankiln, Isle of Wight, 13.6hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

YOUR HEALTH IS IN OUR DOMAIN
WPA have a range of health insurance schemes at surprisingly affordable prices. You'll find them all on the Internet @wpahealth.com.
WPA
Western Provident Association
http://www.wpahealth.com

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be mostly dry with bright or sunny spells. There will be a few showers but these will be confined to higher ground in the north and perhaps northeastern coastal regions.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will *have sunny spells and showers. The* showers will be wintry in the northern parts of Scotland and over the mountains further south. Later the showers will peter out but thicker cloud will spread into western parts with rain by the end of the period.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** bright or sunny spells, perhaps a few scattered showers. Wind light northeasterly. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Central N England, NE England:** bright or sunny spells, a few showers, perhaps wintry on higher ground. Wind light northerly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** bright or sunny spells, a few showers, perhaps wintry on higher ground. Wind light and variable becoming mainly southwesterly. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** bright or sunny spells, a few showers, wintry at first, later dying out. Wind light northerly becoming moderate northwesterly. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** bright or sunny spells, a few showers, wintry at first, later dying out. Becoming cloudy again with rain later. Wind light northerly becoming moderate northwesterly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** Rain in the north edging south, becoming light and patchy.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	6.4	0.01	9	48	sh	Lauchars	4.0	0.01	11	52	c
Anglesey	6.2	0.01	13	55	sh	Littlehmptn	11.8	-	10	50	c
Aspatria	3.8	0.05	9	48	r	London	12.8	-	13	55	s
Aviemore	2.3	0.13	7	45	h	Lowestoft	11.4	-	13	55	s
Belfast	7.9	0.01	11	52	r	Manchester	5.1	0.07	9	48	r
Birmingham	6.9	0.01	12	54	s	Margate	11.9	-	11	52	s
Bognor R	13.4	-	12	54	s	Morecambe	2.4	0.11	9	48	r
Bournem'th	12.9	-	13	55	s	Newcastle	X				
Buxton	4.8	0.05	7	45	s	Newquay	X				
Cardiff	10.5	-	12	54	s	Norwich	10.5	-	12	54	s
Clacton	13.5	-	8	46	c	Oxford	9.5	-	13	55	s
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	X				
Colwyn Bay	6.0	0.01	11	52	c	Poole	X				
Cromer	8.5	0.01	10	50	s	Ross-o-wye	8.4	-	14	57	s
Dunbar	X					Ryde	13.3	-	13	55	s
Eastbourne	11.0	-	10	50	s	Salcombe	8.2	-	11	52	s
Edinburgh	X					Sandown	12.8	-	12	54	s
Eskdalemuir	2.8	0.02	8	46	r	Seantin Snd	12.6	-	12	54	s
Exmouth	8.3	-	11	52	s	Scarboro'	2.9	0.03	7	45	d
Fishguard	11.3	-	10	50	s	Shanklin	13.6	-	10	50	s
Folkestone	11.3	-	10	50	s	Shrewsbury	5.8	0.01	11	52	r
Glasgow	7.5	0.01	13	55	s	Skegness	8.8	0.01	11	52	sh
Guernsey	8.9	-	11	52	s	Southend	12.2	-	12	54	s
Hastings	10.2	-	10	50	s	Southport	5.2	0.04	11	52	sh
Hayling I.	13.2	-	12	54	s	Southsea	11.7	-	12	54	s
Herne Bay	11.4	-	11	52	s	Stornoway	0.4	0.11	6	43	sh
Hove	8.7	-	11	52	s	Swanage	13.0	-	11	52	s
Hunstanton	X	-	11	52	c	Teignmouth	6.8	-	12	54	s
Ilfracombe	X					Tenby	12.3	-	12	54	s
Isle of Man	7.4	0.02	12	54	s	Torquay	9.5	-	12	54	s
Jersey	12.7	-	11	52	s	Tynemouth	X				
Kinloss	1.6	0.09	9	48	sh	Ventnor	12.8	-	15	59	s
Leeds	4.2	0.03	9	48	r	West-s-mare	X				
Lerwick	1.1	0.15	5	41	h	Weymouth	10.1	-	10	50	s

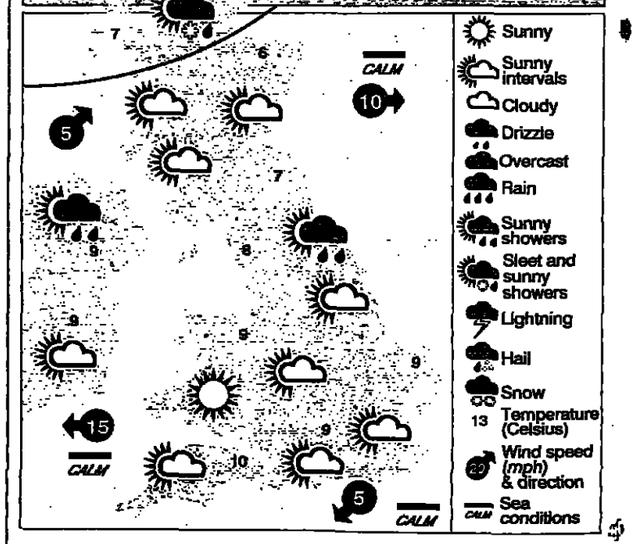
ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	f	Corfu	18	64	f	Majorca	19	66	c
Akrotiri	19	66	s	C'phagn	7	45	s	Malaga	16	61	r
Alex'dria	22	90	s	Dublin	9	48	c	Malta	19	66	f
Algiers	27	81	s	Dubrovnik	13	55	s	Malb'me	18	64	c
Amst'dm	7	45	f	Faro	17	63	f	Madeo C	X		
Athens	18	64	s	Florence	12	54	r	Miami	26	79	s
B Aires	19	66	s	Frankfurt	9	48	f	Milan	12	54	c
Bahrain	27	81	s	Funchal	19	66	f	Montreal	8	46	s
Bangkok	35	95	s	Geneva	9	48	f	Moscow	2	36	c
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	19	66	f	Munich	1	34	sn
Barcelona	13	55	d	Helsinki	3	37	f	N Delhi	33	91	s
Beirut	20	68	s	Hong K	22	72	c	N York	12	54	f
Belgrade	19	66	s	Innsbruck	3	37	r	Nairobi	X		
Berlin	7	45	f	Istanbul	14	57	f	Naples	16	61	f
Bermuda	21	70	f	Jeddah	32	90	s	Nice	12	54	c
Biarritz	17	63	f	Jo'burg	14	57	f	Oslo	6	43	s
Borde'x	15	59	s	L Angels	18	64	s	Paris	10	50	f
Brussels	8	46	f	L Palmas	22	72	f	Peking	21	70	s
Budapst	2	36	sl	Le Tquet	10	50	f	Perth	23	73	c
Cairo	35	95	s	Lisbon	19	66	f	Prague	5	41	c
Cape Tn	15	59	f	Locarno	8	46	d	Reykjavik	3	37	s
Ch'church	10	50	X	Luxembg	7	45	f	Rhodes	19	66	s
Chicago	X			Luxor	36	97	s	Rio de J	34	93	f
Cologne	8	46	f	Madrid	X			Riyadh	30	86	f

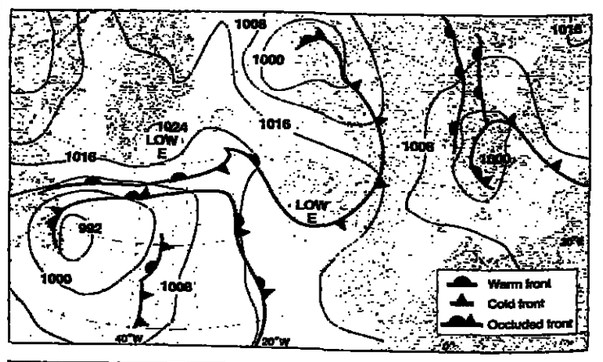
Rome	15	59	f	Tokyo	17	63	s	Vienna	3	37	c
S Fr'isco	19	66	c	Toronto	4	39	r	Warsaw	5	41	c
S Paulo	23	73	c	Tunis	25	77	f	Wash'ton	16	61	s
Salzburg	1	34	sn	Valencia	18	64	c	Wel'ngton	11	52	X
Santiago	23	73	s	Vanc'ver	10	50	r	Zurich	5	41	f
Seoul	22	72	s	Venice	11	52	r				
Sing'por	33	91	f								
St'kholm	4	39	f								
Straslb'rg	10	50	c								
Sydney	21	70	s								
Tangier	19	66	f								
Tel Aviv	29	84	s								
Tenerife	22	72	s								

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday, X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart: low E will deepen and move eastwards. High E will build, and remain slow-moving near the British Isles



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	02.28	6.8	14 47	7.0	Leith	03 17	5.2	15.39	5.3
Aberdeen	02.00	4.0	14 11	4.0	Liverpool	11.58	9.1	-	-
Avonmouth	07.50	12.7	20 10	12.9	Lowestoft	10.22	2.3	22.24	2.4
Belfast	11.43	3.3	-	-	Margate	00.29	4.4	12.54	4.5
Cardiff	07.36	11.7	19 56	11.9	Milford Haven	06 53	6.6	19.11	6.7
Devonport	06.21	5.4	18 42	5.4	Newquay	05.45	6.6	18.02	6.7
Dover	11.45	6.3	-	-	Oban	08.21	3.6	18.52	3.8
Dublin (N Wall)	00.05	3.7	12.22	3.8	Penzance	05.16	5.2	17.33	5.3
Falmouth	05.52	5.2	18.13	5.2	Portland	07.23	1.8	19.49	1.9
Greenock	01.21	3.0	13.21	3.1	Portsmouth	-	-	12.06	4.4
Harwich	00.24	3.7	12.44	3.9	Shoreham	11.55	5.8	-	-
Holyhead	11.03	5.7	23.21	5.4	Southampton	11 29	4.3	23.45	4.4
Hull (Albert D)	07.01	8.4	19 13	8.5	Swansea	07.06	9.2	19.21	9.2
Ilfracombe	06.39	8.8	18 58	8.9	Tees	04.16	6.1	16 30	5.2
King's Lynn	07 08	6.3	19.18	6.4	Walton-on-N	00 17	3.9	12 37	4.0

All times BST Heights in metres

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.50 am
Sun sets: 8.09 pm
Moon sets 5.56 am
Moon rises 7.49 pm
Full moon today

London 8.09 pm to 5.48 am
Bristol 8.19 pm to 5.58 am
Edinburgh 8.34 pm to 5.48 am
Manchester 8.23 pm to 5.51 am
Penzance 8.27 pm to 6.13 am

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1997. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kinfing Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HH, telephone 0151-546 2000, Tuesday, April 22, 1997. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

THE TIMES 2

TUESDAY APRIL 22 1997

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



ENTERPRISE
How a farmer found there's money in tourism
PAGE 41



LAW
Who would be the powers in Labour's legal landscape?
PAGES 43-45



SPORT
O'Sullivan's record break gives clear sign of his intentions
PAGES 50-56

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 54, 55

Co-op threatens Regan with SFO

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM AND JASON NISSÉ

THE Co-operative Wholesale Society raised the stakes in its fight to fend off a takeover bid by Andrew Regan, the 31-year-old entrepreneur, by threatening to call in the Serious Fraud Office if he fails to supply details of payments made to middlemen during an earlier deal.

A spokesman for Mr Regan, whose investment vehicle, Lanica Trust, is preparing a £1.15 billion bid for CWS, dismissed the threat and said that there was no mystery about the payments.

In a letter to Mr Regan, Graham Melmoth, chief executive of CWS, said that Allan Green and David Chambers, two directors suspended by the CWS last week, had told him that the deal in question had been done directly and without middlemen.

According to a spokesman for Galileo, the vehicle set up by Lanica to carry out the bid, payments of more than £1 million were made to a company named Trellis International in 1995 to pay Ronald Zimet, a businessman, for his help in extending a crucial supply deal between the CWS and Hobson, a company headed by Mr Regan which bought the CWS food manufacturing business.

In the letter, Mr Melmoth writes: "If Messrs Green and Chambers had nothing to hide, why should they lie? If they are not lying then the 'Trellis role' was not disclosed to the CWS. If the 'Trellis role' was fully disclosed at the time, presumably you will have no difficulty in telling me what that role was, why you were prepared to pay in excess of £2 million for it and who at the Co-op was told about it?"

He says that if answers are not received by close of business today "arrangements will be made to see representatives of the Serious Fraud Office".

The spokesman for Galileo said he understood that Mr Zimet had been present at meetings at the CWS. He said that the difference between the £2.85 million paid to the CWS to extend the deal and the £5 million noted by Hobson, and which included fees to advisers including Mr Zimet, had been apparent since 1995. He also said that both SBC and KPMG, advisers to CWS, had known of the arrangement with Trellis.

Mr Zimet was yesterday understood to be in Jerusalem for Passover and unavailable for comment. His interests, apart from Trellis, which is registered in the British Virgin Islands, include an investment company in Geneva, a venture capital company in Israel and a company in Curacao. He is also chairman of Freepages, the Aim-quoted provider of interactive information services.

Meanwhile, Lennox Fyfe, chairman of the CWS board, revealed yesterday that a motion will be presented at the CWS annual meeting on May 17 designed to block any further predatory moves by Galileo. Some 300 corporate members and representatives will be asked to give their backing to the board's stance in resisting its overtures. A spokesman said Lanica would not be put off by the motion and would attempt to appeal directly to members through the media and possibly through an advertising campaign.

Mr Regan and his associates were yesterday preparing affidavits to present to the High Court this afternoon. CWS last week obtained an injunction preventing Galileo from using any material obtained from Mr Green and Mr Chambers in any bid. A High Court hearing on Friday morning will decide whether the injunction remains in force.

Gumshoes thrive, page 33

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4329.7	(+18.2)
Yield	3.73%	
FTSE All share	2098.91	(+6.47)
Nikkei	18551.66	(+198.52)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6709.57	(+6.02)*
S&P Composite	766.86	(+0.32)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	94²⁰⁄₃₂*	(94¹⁰⁄₃₂)
Yield	7.07%*	(7.06%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6¹³⁄₁₆%	(6¹³⁄₁₆%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	109²⁄₃₂	(109²⁄₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6346*	(1.6330)
London:		
$	1.6348	(1.6313)
DM	2.7829	(2.7997)
FFr	9.3980	(9.4239)
SFr	2.3893	(2.3825)
Yen	205.21	(205.49)
£ Index	99.5	(99.8)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7035*	(1.7118)
FFr	5.7525*	(5.7675)
SFr	1.4475*	(1.4574)
Yen	125.67*	(125.87)
$ Index	105.4	(105.7)

Tokyo close Yen 125.22

OIL (quotations on...)

Brent 15-day (Jul).. $18.45 ($18.05)

GOLD

London close..... $342.25 ($342.45)

* denotes midday trading price

MEPC £73m hit to cut 'swaps'

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

MEPC has revealed that it will take a £73 million hit this year in an attempt to reduce high financing costs.

The property company said yesterday that it is cancelling some of its interest-rate swap agreements, cutting its overall effective interest charge by about 1.5 per cent. MEPC has been under pressure from major shareholders over its weak performance and static dividend. Last month the company broke off talks with Hammerson over a possible merger.

James Tuckey, chief executive, said the interest-rate deal would ensure cheaper and more flexible financing, as well as improving dividend cover from 1998. The dividend will stay at 20p this year.

But the City, which has been critical of the company's funding costs, was unimpressed by the deal. Analysts said they were surprised at the cost of cancelling the swaps and were concerned that the company's net asset value had fallen again because of the exceptional charge.

MEPC has launched a major rationalisation programme since the collapse of the Hammerson talks. The company announced last week that it would shed 70 staff by outsourcing the management of 340 properties. It also announced the purchase of three factory outlets for £80 million from C & J Clark, the shoe retailer.

MEPC said it did not expect to reap benefits from the interest-rate cancellation until 2010. It predicted savings would add £9 million in profits, excluding exceptionals, this year, and rising to £19 million next year. But the exceptional charge will cause a net fall in earnings per share of 10.2p this year, while the net asset value will fall by £43 million.

The company said the interest-rate swaps had been made when interest rates were high and had resulted in funding costs at significantly higher levels than its competitors.

Pennington, page 31

JOHN HOULIHAN/GUZELIAN



End of the line: Jon Foulds, left, chairman of the Halifax, and Mike Blackburn, chief executive, at the building society's last annual meeting yesterday. Page 30

A&L payouts top £1,400 as shares leap on flotation

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

SHARES in Alliance & Leicester, the former building society, soared to 566½p on the first day of trading yesterday, nearly 9 per cent higher than the 520p predicted at the end of last week. The rise means that the value of the payout per qualifying society member is now more than £1,400.

Brokers claimed that the share price, which at one point reached 576p, was being driven up by bid speculation, with Abbey National, Halifax, Lloyds TSB and Australian Mutual Provident rumoured as possible buyers. More than 88 million shares changed hands, with retail stockbrokers reporting widespread buying by private investors.

The closing share price gives the newly fledged bank, whose chief executive is Peter White, a market capitalisation of nearly £3.3 billion, 20 per cent higher than the valuation given by the A&L's own advisers in the transfer document.

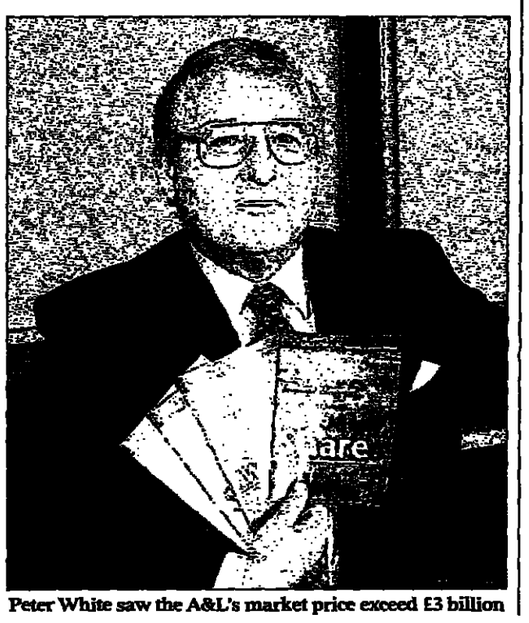
The market price is much higher than the price achieved in the first of three auctions to dispose of 157 million shares from the 600,000 A&L members who decided to sell straight away.

The 52 million shares sold in the first auction fetched an average price of 522p. The highest bidder paid 546p for 730,000 shares, while the lowest paid 517p. Cazenove said the prices paid in the second auction were bound to be higher. Those selling shares through the auctions will get the average price from all auctions.

The Building Societies Association said customers could pay a heavy price for free shares. Adrian Coles, BSA director, said: "In the long term, customers will end up paying higher mortgage rates and receiving lower savings rates."

Shares in the Halifax, the next society to float, could also move to a big premium. It is expected to have a market value of more than £10 billion when it floats in June.

Pennington, page 31



Peter White saw the A&L's market price exceed £3 billion

United pays £4.8m to Hollick

BY JASON NISSÉ

LORD HOLLICK, the Labour peer, received more than £4.8 million last year from United News & Media, the company where he is chief executive, made up of a mixture of salary, pension, share options and bonus payments.

The basic salary paid by United, whose interests include the Express newspapers and a stake in the nascent Channel 5, was £376,500, but bonus payments, benefits and pension payments took that to £757,000, an £8,500 increase on the previous year.

However, on top of this Lord Hollick was paid £2.22 million to give up share options in MAI Group, the company he ran that merged with United. In September last year and March this year he also exercised other options granted as far back as 1987, which he sold for a profit of £1.9 million.

He retains options of more than 600,000 United shares with a value in excess of £2 million.

Charles Gregson, who runs the moneybroking operations, was paid £1.49 million to give up share options in MAI on top of remuneration of £457,000.

Two directors who left United after the merger with MAI picked up more than £1 million in compensation. Graham Wilson, who was chief executive, received a payoff of £603,000, which was more than eight times his annual salary, and Andrew Cameron, who ran Express, was given £485,000 to terminate a contract that paid £83,333 a year.

Lord Stevens, the group's chairman, was paid £533,000. He will become part-time after the group's annual shareholders' meeting next month. He is negotiating a new contract at present to reflect that status.

Praise for proposed Cordiant demerger

BY JASON NISSÉ

DAVID HERRO, the US investor whose actions brought about the departure of Lord Saatchi from Cordiant, yesterday praised the planned demerger of the business into the Saatchi & Saatchi and Bates networks as "an excellent deal for everyone".

Mr Herro and five other leading shareholders were canvassed about the deal last week, ahead of yesterday's announcement. "This is dismantling a holding company structure which was erroneously put together," he said.

In the £700 million demerger plan, Saatchi & Saatchi will be floated off in a separate company to be run by Bob Seelert, Cordiant's chief executive.

The remaining company will comprise the Bates network, which will include the Rowland public relations side, National Research Group in Los Angeles and HP:ICM, a communications consultancy.

Zenith, the media buyer, will be independently managed but owned 50-50 by Bates and Saatchi. Mr Seelert said that new accounting practices had to be introduced to Zenith to show its true profitability, but an advertising expert said figures released yesterday indicated that Zenith made no money on £60 million of turnover.

Mr Seelert said the group had never planned to sell the Bates network. However, he said that what happens once it floats is another matter.

Tempus, page 32

Star names in quest for ancient religious gems

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

A FLEDGLING diamond exploration company has set off in search of the gems from a 3,000-year-old religious artefact — and has become the unlikely darling of the Australian stock market, helped by a star-studded list of investors headed by the billionaire George Soros.

Even by the standards of the speculative Australian mining industry, Diamond Rose is a one-off. Set up by Pnina Feldman, the sister of Joseph Gutnik, a well-known mining magnate, the company hopes to find the 12 gemstones of the breastplate worn by the High Priest in the Temple of Jerusalem 3,000 years ago. Known in the Bible as the Hoshen, the breastplate's 12 stones symbolize the 12 tribes of Israel. Diamond Rose says that its tenements in Western Australia arguably hold five definite and possibly another two of the Hoshen gemstones.

The idea of finding the stones from the Hoshen came from the late Rabbi Schneerson of New York, who ten years ago told Mr Gutnik that he would find gold and the Hoshen diamonds in the outback of Western Australia. Gutnik found the gold but has so far failed to find any of the diamonds.

Ms Feldman's belief that she will find the Hoshen diamonds is shared by James Packer, son of the media mogul, and Australian institutional investors GIO, Bankers Trust Australia and Permanent Trustees, all of whom are among the venture's 20 major shareholders.

The fact that Diamond Rose made its stock market debut on Rabbi Schneerson's birthday has only reaffirmed Ms Feldman's faith in her mission. She says: "I truly believe we are blessed... I'm convinced it's a sign from the heavens." Diamond Rose's shares jumped from 20 cents to A$1.29 on the first day of trading, giving Ms Feldman an instant paper fortune of A$90 million.

MOUNT JOHN.

Fixed at 17°9'S, 128°41'E; capped with snow.

This week's five year 'fixed and capped' offer: benefit from a highly competitive 6.99% (7.3% APR) fixed for the first two years, and for the following three, float with the standard variable rate but never go higher than the 'cap' of 7.99%. Details coming up:

* 6.99% (7.3% APR) fixed until 1.4.99
* Capped rate at 7.99% from 1.4.99 to 1.4.2002
* Redemption penalty: 3½% of loan for first five years
* No compulsory insurances
* Lender's arrangement fee of £295 added to the loan
* Funded by a Building Society committed to mutuality with a standard rate currently lower than the average.

6.99% 7.3% APR

For a written quotation, contact your nearest John Charcol branch on the Freephone number below.

0800 71 81 91

JOHN CHARCOL.

Fixed at 6.99% (7.3% APR) for two years; capped at 7.99% till 2002.

Typical Example: A £60,000 interest only mortgage on a property valued at £100,000 repaid over 25 years assuming completion on 30/4/97. 300 gross monthly repayments of £349.50 assuming a fixed rate of 6.99% (APR 7.3%), to 1/4/99 and further assuming that the variable base mortgage rate remains at 6.99% after the initial fixed rate has expired for the remainder of the mortgage term. In practice the variable base mortgage rate might differ from that assumed but between 1/4/99 and 1/4/2002 it cannot exceed 7.99%. Total amount payable £185,640.06 calculated to include £295 lender's arrangement fee, £117.50 legal fee, £2.70 application fee (including funds reservation and valuation), £75 deeds despatch and telex fee (on redemption) and accrued interest of £32.56. Loans subject to status, type and value of property. APR may vary. Security will be required. Insurance must be required. Limited funds available. John Charcol Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The PIA does not regulate mortgage, general or medical insurance business. Written quotations available on request. Additional security in the form of a mortgage guarantee may be required. John Charcol Limited has approved this advertisement. Credit broker fees of up to 1% of the amount borrowed may be charged. To maintain the quality of our service, we may occasionally tape calls to this number for training and monitoring purposes.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

JOHN CHARCOL

'Budgie' flies into legal storm

By Fraser Nelson

BUDGIE the Little Helicopter, the cartoon character invented by the Duchess of York, has dragged Sleepy Kids, its owners, into a $22 million legal battle with its former marketing agents.

Launey, Hachmann and Harris (LHH), a New York company hired four years ago to help Budgie to break into the US, is claiming compensation of $22 million in punitive damages. It claims it is entitled to the sum after marketing costs it estimates at $2.3 million.

Robert Launey, president, says LHH received only about $150,000 from Sleepy Kids, in spite of placing the series with Fox Children's Network and helping to launch the series on home video. The agency has since run into financial problems.

Sleepy Kids wrote down the intellectual property value of the cartoon from £2.4 million to £1.8 million last month on the grounds that its US performance was disappointing.

Competition action by Ofwat expected soon

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

BUXTED CHICKENS, part of the Hillsdown food group, will shortly become the first substantial company to switch its water supply from an existing monopoly to a competing company.

Ian Byatt, Director-General of Water Services, is expected to allow Anglian Water to take over from Essex and Suffolk Water, part of the multinational Lyonnaise utility group. The decision may come before the election. The contract could start in the autumn.

Anglian will build a new pipeline from its existing territory to Buxted's plant in Flixton, Suffolk. It will supply water from its own resources. Buxted will go on Anglian's large-user tariff and is expected to save between 20 and 25 per cent of its supply bill.

The two water companies' licences would be amended to allow Anglian's to take in Buxted's plant at Flixton. That might allow Anglian to compete for other business near by. Anglian says that, if it is successful, it will look for more "inset appointments" elsewhere. Competition is strongly encouraged in theory. In practice, it has hitherto been confined to bidding for contracts at new industrial sites, such as the Toyota car plant in Derbyshire.

The Buxted application is one of 18 being considered by Ofwat under the Competition in Services (Utilities) Act. None has yet been approved. The second may also be for Anglian, which wants to take over sewage treatment for RAF Finningley in Lincolnshire. The airbase has its own sewage system, but takes water from Severn Trent.

All the other proposals are from Envirologic, a consultancy company. Many of these applications require water from existing suppliers and the use of their pipes.

These involve complex issues, such as the pricing of water and common carriage rates, which would be decided by Ofwat. Mr Byatt fears that special cost-based deals brokered for large users could shift charges for investment on to household customers.

Pennington, page 31



Ian Byatt, of Ofwat, may make decision before the election

Rebels fail in Halifax board bid

TWO dissidents failed to gain places on the board of the Halifax, which yesterday held its last annual meeting as a mutual organisation.

Serge Lourie, an accountant who sits on the board of several pension funds, and Peter Judge, a Labour councillor in Calderdale, stood in opposition to three retiring board members, including Mike Blackburn, Halifax's chief executive, who had put themselves up for re-election.

However, Mr Lourie and Mr Judge, the founders of the Halifax Action Group which led the campaign of opposition to the planned £10 billion conversion and stock market flotation, gained just 290,000 votes between them. Last year they jointly notched up 385,000 votes in a similar bid.

An attempt by Mr Lourie and Mr Judge to put a cap on executive pay also failed.

The Halifax will today start to inform its members how many shares they can expect to receive when the society makes its stock market debut in June. The strong performance of Alliance & Leicester yesterday suggests that the average Halifax windfall, formerly valued at £1,200, could now be worth closer to £1,400.

Lloyd's auction deals under investigation

BY ADAM JONES

LLOYD'S OF LONDON is investigating several cases of suspected insider dealing in auctions of syndicate space last year.

The 1996 auctions allocated £1.4 billion of underwriting capacity. Much of this resulted from individual names leaving the market and selling their right to invest in certain syndicates, often to the new corporate vehicles.

Announcing a tighter regulatory structure for 1997, Lloyd's said yesterday that "a handful" of deals are being investigated. Richard Murphy, manager of its monitoring arm, said: "If any disciplinary action is taken, it will be published."

The auctions, a way of realising the market value of involvement in desirable syndicates, raised £35 million in 1996.

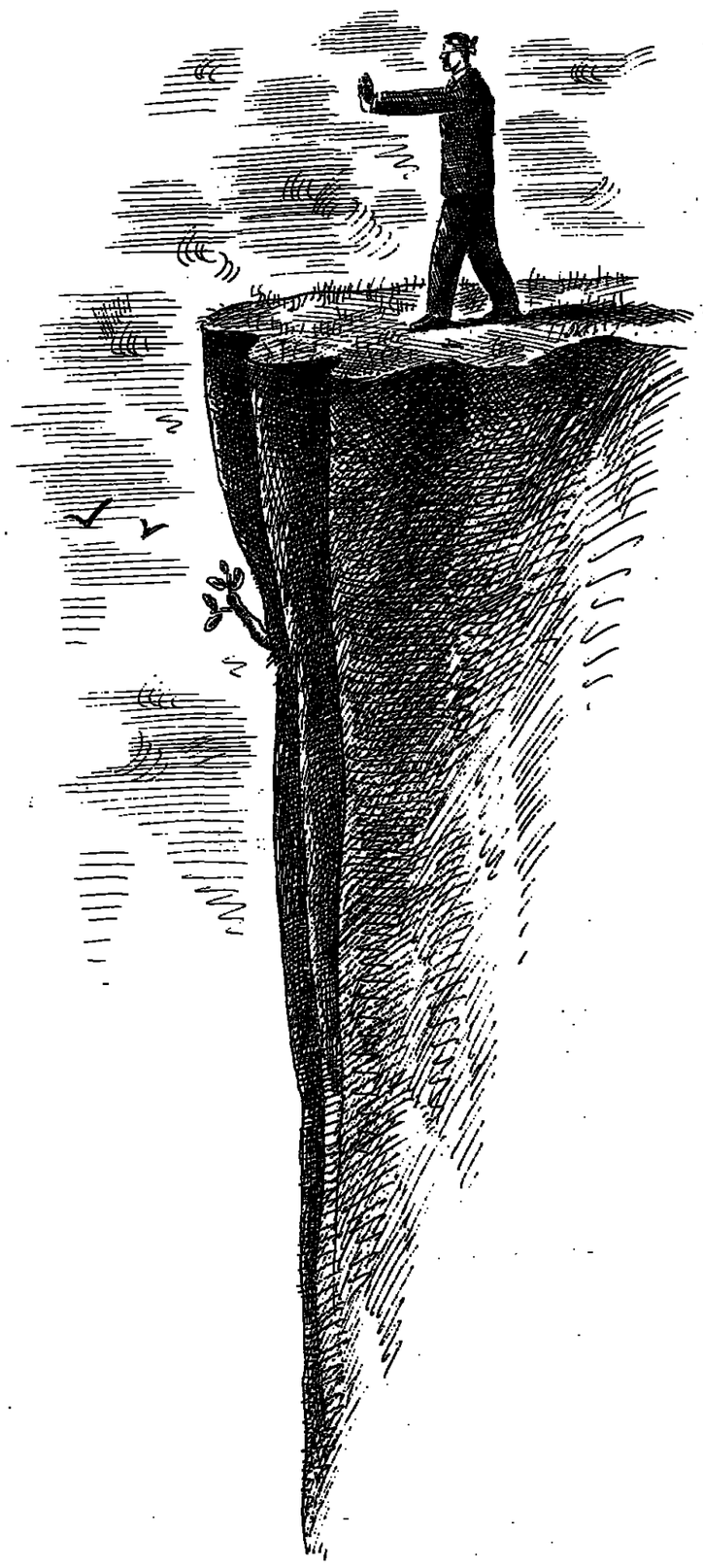
Auctions this year will offer a fairer chance to all buyers, said Lloyd's. Bidders in 1996 were able to offer unrealistically high amounts to put themselves at the front of the queue, forcing out smaller investors. But they knew they would never pay the inflated sum since the eventual price was an average from all the sales for a syndicate. Bidders will now have to pay what they offer.

There will be eight auctions this year, held between July 8 and September 23, plus a special auction on December 16 for capacity released by members who die late in the year. The total expected to be allocated is conservatively estimated at £600 million to £700 million, but names will still not be able to buy in one auction and sell the same capacity in another.

The auctions will now solely use computers and faxes, as opposed to the traditional face-to-face system used by auction houses. This will provide fuller records to aid investigation of any insider deals, said Lloyd's.

Each seller will also be checked in advance to ensure that they have the capacity they are selling.

Before you go for a discount deal on your business calls...



...be sure you see the whole picture.

At BT we can help your business with some really down to earth deals.

In fact, 97% of all business calls qualify for our discounts.

So you can save money on your BT calls virtually every time you pick up the phone.

For example with BT Business Choices you can get a discount of at least 20% on your calls whether they are local, national or international, for a quarterly site fee of only £5.

On top of this with BT you get a world class service from the most extensive network in the UK.

For more information about BT business discounts call on **Free***fone 0800* **800 800.**

BT

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

RICS sees 5% rise in some house prices

HOUSE prices in some parts of England have shot up more than 5 per cent during the past three months alone, according to a report by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) published today. More than a tenth of the 259 chartered surveyors taking part in the survey believe prices have risen more than 5 per cent in the past quarter — the first such response since the boom days of 1988. But the RICS was quick to deny suggestions that the country was in the grip of a new housing boom. Demand is not as great as it was in the late Eighties and sales are lower, it says in its latest England and Wales survey covering the first three months of this year.

A spokesman for the RICS said that the latest finding was "largely due to the buoyancy of the market in London, the South East and the West Midlands". The RICS acknowledged that those areas were suffering the most severe property shortages and, as a result, prices were rising rapidly. It said that there were wide regional variations in the recovery, echoing the findings of research by the Halifax Building Society earlier this month. London still leads the way, with a net balance — the difference between the percentage of people reporting an increase and those reporting a decrease — of 90 per cent of chartered surveyors seeing an increase in prices.

Compel computer deal

SHARES of Compel jumped to a new high yesterday as the desktop computer services group sealed an agreement to join Globalserve, a worldwide alliance of computer suppliers. Under the agreement, Compel will be able to pitch its services to UK-based multinational companies drawing on support from Globalserve'a other members. Globalserve is one of three such worldwide alliances, and has 30 members with annual turnover of $5 billion. Compel's shares closed 14½p firmer at 268½p.

Securicor US offering

SECURICOR TELESCIENCES, the Securicor subsidiary in America that supplies billing management systems to the telecommunications industry, is to raise about $30 million by selling 2.6 million common shares in an initial public offering. Securicor will own 57 per cent of the subsidiary after the sale is completed. Securicor Telesciences reported profits of $3.6 million on turnover of $34 million in its last financial year. Its shares are to traded on America's Nasdaq market.

Sims agrees to MBO

TWO directors of Sims Food, the meat processor and supplier, have been given the go-ahead by the company to put together a management buyout of the retail division. One of the directors, Richard Canvin, joint managing director of the retail division, resigned yesterday in order to prepare the buyout. The other joint managing director, David Gunner, assumes full responsibility for the division and will be part of the buyout team. Any outside offers for the business will also be considered by the company.

JBA races ahead

JBA HOLDINGS, the software company that hopes to make a fortune by helping to solve the millennium computer bug, increased pre-tax profits last year by 57 per cent, from £7.2 million to £11.3 million. The company saw turnover increase by 31 per cent, from £123.2 million to £161.8 million. Earnings per share were up by 39 per cent, from 13.14p to 18.26p. JBA will pay a final dividend of 4p (3p) on July 1, bringing the total to 5.1p (4p). JBA also expects to buy Presys Holdings, a French software comoany.

Dealer fined £250,000

A PENNY SHARE dealer has been fined a record £250,000 with £30,956 costs by Fimbra, the former watchdog for independent financial advisers, for six serious rule breaches. City Equities had failed to warn clients about the risks involved and failed to obtain the necessary information about certain of its clients. It also failed to have "good grounds for believing that its recommendations were suitable for or of benefit to certain clients". Further, Fimbra said that the firm had made unsolicited calls to potential investors.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.20	2.04	Malta	0.557	0.602
Austria Sch	20.53	19.03	Netherlds Gld	3.312	3.042
Belgium Fr	60.45	56.25	New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Canada $	2.402	2.232	Norway Kr	12.01	11.21
Cyprus Cypf	0.870	0.805	Portugal Esc	293.00	273.00
Denmark Kr	11.16	10.36	S Africa Rd	7.95	7.05
Finland Mrk	8.92	8.24	Spain Pta	245.50	228.50
France Fr	9.82	9.12	Sweden Kr	13.23	12.23
Germany Dm	2.94	2.72	Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.31
Greece Dr	459	429	Turkey Lira	224130	210130
Hong Kong $	13.40	12.30	USA $	1.734	1.604
Iceland	127	107			
Ireland Pt	1.10	1.02			
Israel Shk	5.83	5.18			
Italy Lira	2908	2708			
Japan Yen	215.00	203.00			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

☐ Strong chairmen are a rare species ☐ Scramble for building society shares ☐ Unconscionable delay at Costain

Leading from the top

☐ IN THE great debate on corporate governance, the non-executive chairman has been assigned huge importance. Every company should have one, contend those committee men who have the time to tell others how to run their businesses.

But instead of forming a dynamic double act at the top of the corporate pyramid, the combination of chairman and chief executive which is so earnestly advocated often turns into a dismal exercise in mutual aid. The strong, experienced, chairman prepared to give an errant chief executive a hard time appears to be a rare species.

Disgruntled institutional investors who wish to see change in the management of certain companies cherish the thought that they might have a sensible conversation with the chairman and expect to see results. In practice, too often what they meet is a dogged support for the current regime from chairmen who have stood by as their executives have failed to perform.

No doubt MEPC chairman Lord Blakenham expected the City to be delighted with the company's decision yesterday to extricate itself from some expensive financing arrangements at a cost of £73 million. But the fact is that the move should have been made years ago. Inspiration has come not from the top but from the prospect of a hostile bid from Hammerson.

Lord Blakenham presided over a period of dismal dithering and some expensive wrong decisions at his family firm, Pearson. He has recently been replaced as chairman by the ubiquitous Dennis Stevenson, the renaissance man who combines transforming GPA with being chairman of the Tate Gallery. Now excitement is expected at Pearson.

Stevenson's arrival there has enabled Blakenham to devote more of his time to MEPC, but he must actually take responsibility for the company's fortunes since 1993, when he took over as chairman.

Sir Bob Reid's reign at Sears has been shorter but long enough and inactive enough to drive some investors close to apoplexy. When, they wonder, will he decide that strong action is what is required, in every sense?

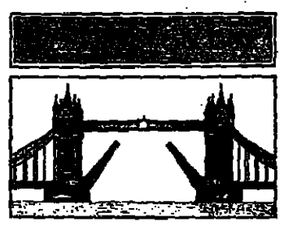
The institutions are much criticised for not stepping up in public and voicing their discontent when companies fail to perform but they argue, with some justification, that it is far less damaging if things can be put right behind the scenes. One has only to witness the aftermath of David Herro's determinedly public attack on what is now Cordiant to know that dirty washing should ideally reach the laundry incognito.

But for this to be possible, they must have access to chairmen who are prepared to take a reasoned, dispassionate, and sometimes brave, view. Otherwise, it is the chairmen who should be first in line to lose their stipends, with the incompetent executives following.

Ups and downs of A&L flotation

☐ ON ANY normal reading of human psychology, the unexpected rise in the Alliance & Leicester share price yesterday must mean that even more retail investors will cash out and walk away, unable to trust their good luck holding for long.

By implication, prices in the forthcoming floats of the Halifax



et al will also be forced higher, more people will sell out and we will not be left with that terrifying 17 million-strong list of new shareholders, each clutching a handful apiece, that was always the worst possible outcome this summer. The Abbey National took several years to get to 40 per cent institution ownership; the A&L could manage it by the end of the month, and the other flotations could repeat the pattern.

All well and good, except that the special circumstances of the A&L float appear to have conspired to create yesterday's mad scramble and price hike. Because more than one in four shareholders wanted out, Cazenove was required to hold three auctions to cope with the volume. Those auctions required fund managers to work out for themselves what the stock was worth. Bidders badly underpriced the first auction, many putting in at little more than £5. Left out, they rushed lemming-like into the market, with predictable results.

The other auctions will be more realistically priced, and soak up much of the remaining demand. And all those other new investors will have instructed their banks or whoever to sell. Result: A&L investors get an early lesson that share prices can fall as well as rise.

This will depend on two factors, what the market finally decides the A&L is worth and whether there is anyone out there stakebuilding for a bid. The second is unproven, with a bias towards the negative. As to the first, if you apply one valuation method, by stripping out and discounting both companies' cash and accounting treatment of cashbacks, the A&L is actually trading on about the same forward multiple as the Abbey National. With its management, it should be on a little less. New investors desperate to pay for summer holidays can sell, but do not count on getting yesterday's price.

Why are we waiting?

☐ SUSPENSION of a company's share listing is a blunt instrument and should be wielded as seldom as possible, because it deprives a company's owners, the shareholders, of the vital right to get out. Andrew Regan's Lanica Trust is not the only share suspended for an unconscionable length of time. Lanica shareholders have been frustrated for two months; the long-suffering minority investors in Costain look set to be shut out for a full half year.

Costain has come to its current sad state because of the failings of previous management. The competence of the latest bunch is yet unproven, but they seem to lack any sense of speed. The shares were initially suspended pending the sale of the US coal interests, achieved rather late. Then, the company says, there was the appointment of a new chief executive, also late, and chairman, late again. We now await the 1996 results. The chances of receiving this bulletin before the stipulated deadline at the end of this month look slim.

There is no question of a further capital reconstruction. It is impossible to see why the replacement as chairman of one previously unknown nominee from one of the three controlling shareholders with another should hold up relisting, or the arrival of a new chief executive, or even last year's figures, assuming these get here before this year's interims are due. The suspicion is that Costain is being run for the benefit of those three major investors, with no consideration for the 23 per cent of shares in minority hands. This is simply not good enough.

Water sports

☐ COMPETITION in water is likely to remain a minority sport after the election. Even Conservatives, for whom competition is the ultimate in political correctness, failed to find time for a complex Bill allowing rivals to commandeer each other's pipes. As Anglian made its first raid on a neighbour yesterday, Frank Dobson, Shadow Environment Secretary, was railing at the evils of modern water meters.

Shares halted at Mackie's request

By Oliver August

MACKIE International, the troubled engineering company, raised new doubts about the extent of its difficulties yesterday when the arrival of a new chief executive accompanied a move to restate its 1996 accounts.

Dealings in Mackie's shares were suspended before the market opened at the Belfast-based company's own request. Soon afterwards it said: "Certain matters have come to light since the preliminary results announcement on March 26. These may or may not lead to a restatement of the accounts for the year ended December 31, 1996."

Mackie gave no further details although City speculation centred on Sul Sahota, who was named as Mackie's new chief executive yesterday. It was suggested he may be unhappy with the way the accounts were presented in the light of Mackie's recent slide from profit to loss.

Mackie was unable to clarify further.

Premier Farnell introduces team after 82% increase

By Jason Nisse

PREMIER FARNELL, whose shares crashed after a profits warning in February, is to hold an investor conference on Thursday to introduce the City to its operational management.

The move is an attempt to assuage doubts about the company after the shortfall in profits at the Premier electronic distribution business which was bought for £1.85 million in early 1996.

At the time of the deal Howard Poulson, Premier Farnell's chief executive, had hoped to deliver taxable profits of £160 million for the year ending February 2.

The figures unveiled yesterday showed pre-tax profits up 82 per cent at £137 million, though earnings per share fell from 35.6p to 29.1p. A final dividend of 6.8p, payable on July 1, makes a total of 12p, up 17 per cent.

Mr Poulson said the shortfall was for three main reasons. The strong pound had hit the translation of US profits to the tune of £6 million; Farnell Electronic Services, the volume components business sold in December, made £10 million less profit than it should have; and the core operation suffered because of the absence of particularly high margin business caused by semi-conductor shortages in 1994 and 1995.



Poulson: profits shortfall

The revelations that profits would not hit targets led to more than £500 million being wiped off Premier Farnell's share price. Yesterday Mike Styles, electronics analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, echoed most City sentiment in saying the results were "bang in line with expectations". The shares rose 1p to 499p.

Institutional investors, some of whom had said Mr Poulson's job was on the line, remain cautious. "The jury is still out on this deal," said one leading shareholder.

Among the criticisms of Premier Farnell in February was a failure to communicate. Mr Poulson said Thursday's meeting was to address this.

Among the managers being introduced to institutional investors and stockbroking analysts will be Don Payzant, who runs the Newark catalogue components operation in the US, and Terry Taylor, who is spearheading the group's move into catalogue distribution of industrial products.

They will reveal a number of initiatives aimed at increasing the profitability of the UK and US businesses. A new Newark catalogue is being prepared with a simplified pricing structure and colour photography. A CD-Rom version of the catalogues has been produced and there is a buyers' guide on the Internet.

Mr Poulson said the group's manufacturing arm was non-core, but was not up for sale at the moment.

Tempus, page 32

Raine in talks over bid

RAINE, the housebuilding group, admitted it was in bid talks yesterday after its share price jumped by more than 10 per cent in early trading (Alasdair Murray writes).

Raine shares touched 21p after the statement, although they later fell back to close up 2p at 19½p. The company said it was considering an all-share offer at a modest premium to 19½p. It added that it did not expect discussions to be concluded for several weeks.

Shares in the company, which was formed in 1986 with the support of Sir Nigel Rudd, hit a peak of 137p four years ago. But the company ran into difficulties in the recession and almost collapsed in 1995. It returned to profit last year, reporting £1 million half-year profits.

Sears payout hit by MMC referral

By Sarah Cunningham

THE payout by Sears of £410 million to its shareholders is set for a further delay after a government decision to refer the proposed sale of its Freemans home-shopping arm to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The return of cash, designed to appease shareholders unhappy about the retail group's poor profit performance, was set for the summer but will not happen now until the end of the year.

Yesterday was the second time the proposed sale to Littlewoods has been referred to the MMC. The first was made in February after Littlewoods had offered around £395 million for Freemans. During the delay caused by the initial referral, Sears began talks with N Brown and negotiations with Littlewoods were terminated. N Brown and Sears then failed to agree a price, with N Brown offering considerably below £395 million. Talks with Littlewoods were then restarted.

Littlewoods' second offer, also expected to be for well below £395 million, will be put before the Sears board on Thursday. The meeting, which comes ahead of the group's results next week, is also expected to hear a restructuring proposal from Liam Strong, Sears' embattled chief executive, designed to resolve the problems at its British Shoe Corporation subsidiary.

Meanwhile, Littlewoods has received an unspecified number of indicative offers for its chain of 135 stores. Around a dozen companies asked for the sales memorandum, but the majority are not proceeding with an offer.

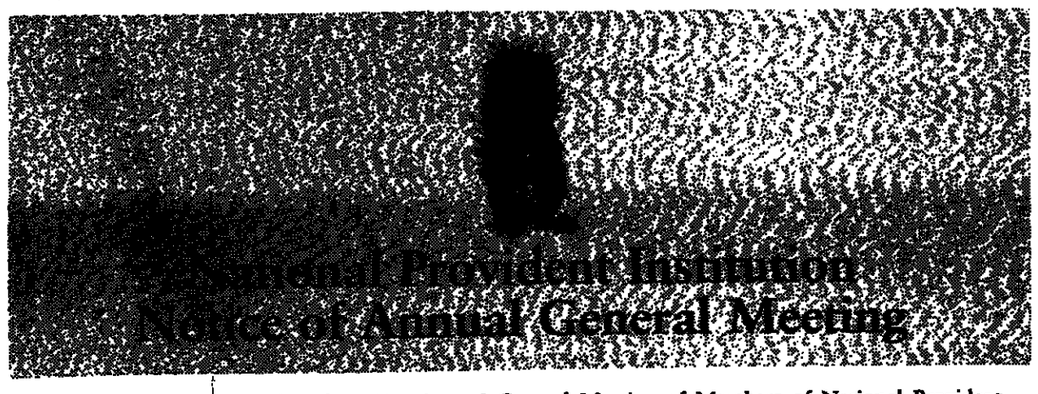
Reed son appointed new chief

REED EXECUTIVE, the recruitment agency, has promoted James Reed, the company's chief operating officer and the son of its chairman, to chief executive (Chris Ayres writes).

Alec Reed, who owns two thirds of the firm, said his son was replacing Chris Kelly, a director for 12 years, who will receive an undisclosed sum as compensation. Reed was reporting a 40 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £12.3 million for the year to December 29.

Turnover was also up, from £150.2 million to £191 million, while earnings rose from 11.1p to 15.6p a share. The company expects to open about 10 high street branches next year, and it does not foresee a slowdown in the economy until after 2000.

Reed Executive will pay a final dividend of 1.3p (1p) on June 18, bringing the total dividend to 2.6p (2p).



Notice is hereby given that the 161st Annual General Meeting of Members of National Provident Institution will be held at the City Conference Centre, 76 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7JN, on Wednesday, 21 May 1997, at 12.00 noon, for the transaction of the following ordinary business:

Resolution No.1 To receive and adopt the Accounts and Report of the Directors for the year ended 31 December 1996;

Resolution No.2 To re-appoint as a Director, Mr K Jones, who has joined the Board since the last Annual General Meeting;

Resolution No.3 To re-appoint as a Director, Mr A D Lyons, who has joined the Board since the last Annual General Meeting;

Resolution No.4 To re-appoint as a Director, Mr P W L Morgan, who is retiring by rotation;

Resolution No.5 To re-appoint as a Director, Mr B J Brindley, who is retiring by rotation;

Resolution No.6 To re-appoint as a Director, Lord Camoys, who is retiring by rotation;

Resolution No.7 To re-appoint as a Director, Mr K H McBrien, who is retiring by rotation;

(Mr Morgan and Lord Camoys are members of the Remuneration Committee)

Resolution No.8 To re-appoint Coopers & Lybrand as Auditors and to authorise the Directors to determine their remuneration.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD: Steven O'Brien, Company Secretary.
Principal Office: National Provident House, 55 Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UE.

NOTE. A Member entitled to attend and vote at the general meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and, on a poll, to vote instead of him or her. A proxy need not be a Member of NPI. Proxy forms are available on request from the Company Secretary at the Principal Office. Completed proxy forms must be deposited at the Principal Office not later than 12 noon on 19 May 1997.

NPI
PROVIDING PENSIONS SINCE 1835

If you would like a copy of NPI's Report and Accounts 1996, write to Steven O'Brien, Box 101, NPI, National Provident House, 55 Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UE.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ T



For more information about the Minolta Challenge or the CF 900, please return this coupon to: Minolta (UK) Ltd, Marketing Services, FREEPOST MK451, Rooksley, Milton Keynes, MK13 8BR. Or call us on the number above.

Name _____ Company _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone No. _____ Times _____

STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

RJB hurt by PowerGen supply contract blow

RJB MINING, Britain's biggest remaining coal miner, fell 20½p to 412p after it was learnt that it will lose a big customer from next spring.

As expected, **PowerGen**, the generator, has clinched a contract to buy its coal supplies more cheaply from other sources, such as Mining Scotland, the consortium, and from overseas. Last year PowerGen accounted for 13 million tonnes of **RJB** production out of a total of 35 million tonnes.

At one stage, the RJB price hit 400p, but closed off the bottom as some traders took comfort from the view that an incoming Labour government might force PowerGen to buy supplies domestically.

In December BZW downgraded its profit forecast for RJB and told the market that it faced a tough couple of years as it struggled to secure fresh supply contracts with the big electricity generators as the old contracts imposed by the Government run out.

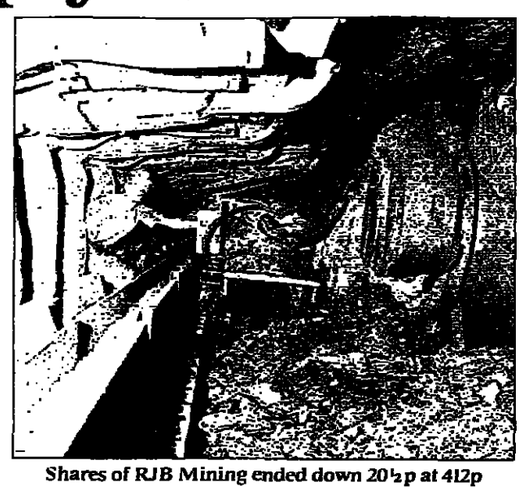
A spokesman for RJB said: "We don't see that this alters the situation with PowerGen. It is a large customer, not the largest, and remains a good customer. It still needs to buy more supplies. We are hoping to continue supplying it".

RJB operates the coalfields formerly belonging to the National Coal Board for which it paid £815 million. After hitting a high of 646p after its flotation, RJB's share price has fallen sharply.

The rest of the equity market reversed an initial 11-point fall to close at its best of the day in thin trading. The FT-SE 100 index finished 18.2 up at 4,328.7 on turnover of less than 700 million shares. Much of the demand focused on the banking sector after the Alliance & Leicester made its public debut. The broader based FT-Mid 250 was up just 0.5 at 4,518.2.

Cordiant, the advertising agency, rose 5½p to 135½p it announced plans to demerge the business into three seperate companies.

Unilever advanced 15½p to £15.94 on speculation that **ICI** is ready to pay nearly £4 billion for its speciality chemicals business. ICI was unmoved at 697½p. Shares of **Mackie International** were suspended at 113½p pending clarification of preliminary results for the year to December 31, published last month. The engineering contractor said



Shares of RJB Mining ended down 20½p at 412p

matters had come to light that might lead to a restatement.

The announcement of a bid approach lifted **Raine** 2p to 19½p. The construction company said it was in talks that might lead to an all-share offer being made at a small premium to the ruling market price. At these levels the group carries a price tag of £213 million. **Symonds** has followed up last month's profits warning with the appointment of Arthur Andersen, the auditor, to investigate "significant breaches" of internal controls at its precision engineering division. The businesses managing director has been sacked and the group now expects profits to be even lower than indicated at the time of the last trading update. The shares fell 9p at 38p.

Shield Diagnostics ended 65p down at 497½p as several directors exercised options and sold stock. Gordon Hall has exercised 70,000 shares at 35p and sold them on at 530p. George Zajicek has also exercised options on 40,000 shares at 35p and sold them on at 530p.

First-time dealings in **Alliance & Leicester** got off to a better start than even the most optimistic stock market bull could have forecast. The minimum bid in Friday's auction was reckoned to be 217p, way above the 484p to 510p predicted by some City pundits.

Opening at 522p the price touched a peak of 576p, before ending the day at 566½p, a rise of 42p, and worth £1,486 to members offered 250 free shares each. Capitalised at £3 billion A&L is the 60th biggest quoted company in Britain and set to take its place as a constituent of the FT-SE 100 index on June 23.

Paul Kavanagh, at Killik & Co, the private client broker, says members should hold on to their shares: "The dividend yield is nigh on 5 per cent for those allocated them and should continue to grow. Its a good one to hold in the current climate of low interest rates and low inflation", he says.

The A&L is the first of four building societies to seek banking status and a stock market listing. Trading starts in the Halifax in June, followed by the Woolwich in July and Northern Rock in October.

Their emergence has refocused attention on the banking sector, which has outperformed the rest of the market since July of last year. **Abbey National** was a case in point, adding 14p at 812½p.

Johnny de la Hey, banking analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, says there is still scope for the banks to outperform in both terms of share price and dividend growth.

The big banks have consolidated their position in the market place and, according to Laing, are capable of dividend growth of 12 per cent per annum up until 1999. Top of its shopping list are **Barclays**, up 18½p at £10.28½, **NatWest**, 18½p higher at 697p, **Bank of Scotland**, 14p dearer at 339½p, ahead of results tomorrow, and **Royal Bank of Scotland**, 14½p better at 544p.

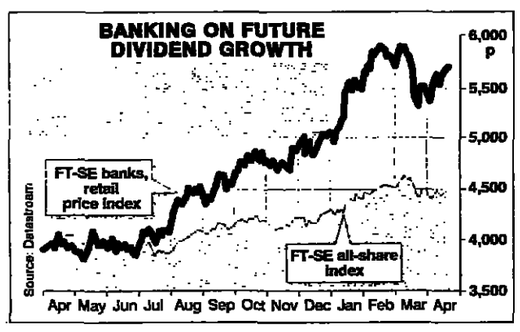
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Weaker European bond markets combined with growing political uncertainty left prices lower on the day. Speculation that President Chirac is about to call a general election in France and growing fears a hung parliament in Britain after May 1, unsettled investors. They proved reluctant to open fresh positions ahead of tomorrow's £2 billion auction.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt was £^{5}/$_{16}$ lower at £109^{7}/$_{16}$ in thin trading that saw just 22,000 contracts completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 closed £^{3}/$_{8}$ down at £102^{25}/$_{32}$, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was off £^{1}/$_{4}$ at £102½.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US blue-chip shares held small gains in early trading. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 6.02 points to 6,709.57.

Newcomer Newcastle United fell 5½p to 117½p after **Charterhouse Tilney**, *the broker, warned clients the shares are looking expensive. Tilney says that because of restraints on ground capacity, there were few chances to increase medium-term revenues. Moving to a new ground could prove expensive.*



Closing Prices Page 34

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 6709.57 (+0.02)
S&P Composite 766.66 (+0.32)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18551.66 (+199.52)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 12626.04 (+84.86)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 744.92 (+3.13)

Sydney:
AO 2445.8 (+3.4)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3347.58 (+3.19)

Singapore:
Straits 2037.89 (-5.31)

Brussels:
General 12171.10 (+54.56)

Paris:
CAC-40 2522.67 (-24.89)

Zurich:
SKA Gen n/a

London:

FT 30	2844.4	(+9.9)
FTSE 100	4328.7	(+18.2)
FTSE 250	4518.2	(+0.5)
FTSE 350	2129.7	(+7.2)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2165.17	(-2.38)
FTSE All-Share	2098.91	(+6.47)
FTSE Non Financials	2156.41	(+5.73)
FTSE Fixed Interest	117.02	(+0.06)
FTSE Govt Secs	94.12	(-0.02)
Bargains	5624	
SEAQ Volume	695.7m	
US$	1.6348	(+0.0038)
German Mark	2.7624	(-0.0167)
Exchange Index	99.5	(+0.3)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

£:ECU	1.4221
£:SDR	1.1910
RPI 155.4 Mar (2.6%)	Jan 1987=100
RPIX 154.9 Mar (2.7%)	Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Alliance & Leicester	566½		...
Aurora Inv Trust	100		...
Avalon Oil	86½		...
Avis Europe	132	–	1
Bickerton	38½		...
Charlton Athletic	56		...
Close Bros Prot VCT	95		...
Donatantonio	74½		...
Harvey Nash	200		...
Heal's	212½		...
Methven's	48		...
NMT (50)	52½	–	2
Newcastle Utd	117½	–	5½
Northstar Secs	28½		...
Oxford Tech Venture	95		...
Sibir Energy	15½		...
Torch Hldgs	107½		...
United Overseas Grp	611½		...
Worldsec	177		...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Edge Props n/p (135)	18½	...
Luminar n/p (320)	52½	...
Pembertons n/p (18)	3	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Johnson Fry	141p (+10p)
JBA Hldgs	720p (+45p)
Cardiff Prop	221½p (+10p)
Bank Scotland	339½p (+14p)
Innovative Tech	331p (+12p)
Leopold J	490p (+15p)
Ryl Bk Scot	544p (+14½p)
Nat West	697p (+18½p)
DFS Furniture	532½p (+12p)
Abbey Nat	812½p (+14p)
Tilbury Dougls	655p (+10p)

FALLS:

Shield Diag	497½p (-65p)
Assoc Br Ports	360½p (-12p)
Cohen (A)	375p (-10p)
Photobition	535p (-10p)
Cobham	656½p (-10p)
Visual Action	172½p (-10p)
Vanguard	607½p (-17½p)
Stand Chart	873½p (-18½p)
De La Rue	536½p (-9p)
Blacks Leis	478½p (-8p)
Close Bros	464p (-7½p)

TEMPUS

The selling of Bates

UNRAVELLING the mistakes of the 1980s is how Bob Seelert describes his demerger of the Cordiant Group. Months of agonising has come up with the solution everyone else thought of years ago — put Saatchi & Saatchi in a different company from Bates. This gets rid of the problem afflicting Bates, since Saatchi bought it in 1986, that it could not take on as clients anyone who conflicted with Proctor & Gamble because that was a Saatchi client. Suddenly the world gets larger for Bates without getting smaller for Saatchi.

However the structure Cordiant and its advisers has come up with is not ideal. The Bates and Saatchi opeartions will have separate listings, at no extra cost, which implies the central overhead of Cordiant is still too high. But the Zenith media buying agency is left straddling the two new businesses uncomfortably. And given that Bates recently took the Wendy's hamburger chain media buying away from Zenith, one wonders how committed it is to a business in which it will have 50 per cent. One suspects Zenith is making too little money to be allowed out on its own at the moment.

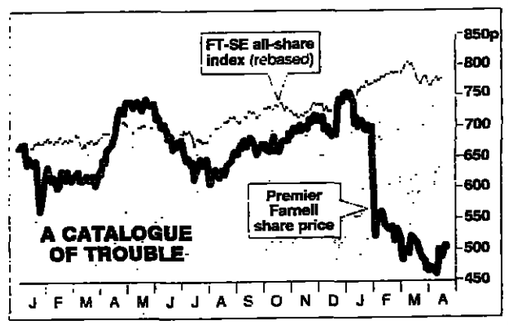
And then why does the Bates side get all the minor gems, such as National Research Group and HP:ICM? This is likely to make a much more profitable company in the medium term than Saatchi and make it look a sensible move to turn down the bid approaches from True North in favour of a float. However the shunning of True North may only be temporary. Mr Seelert admits that anyone would be free to buy Bates once it is floated. Do they have to wait that long? Make no mistake, the "for sale" sign was put on Bates yesterday.

Premier Farnell

THE excuses were all lined up yesterday when Howard Poulson started the process of saving his job as chief executive of Premier Farnell. Exchange rates had cost about £6 million. The volume business sold at Christmas made £10 million less than it should have. This meant the real profits were only about 6 per cent below what Farnell had expected when it spent £1.85 billion on Premier, the giant US components distributor.

What is more, the reason this was not all that good was that the world semiconductor shortage has turned into a glut. So the premium prices Premier's Newark catalogue business was getting have dried up. But there are lots of initiatives — like putting pictures and a full price range in the Newark catalogue and launching Farnell in the States — which will help.

But it is not really good enough. Mr Poulson gave the City a story of jam tomorrow from Premier. What he either did not know, or did not tell, was that the business was enjoying exceptional profits at the time of the purchase. So the new vision was being built on shifting foundations. An investor presentation on Thursday may add confidence, but there is no sign of this jam. Given the market only put the shares up 1p to 499p, leaving them nearly 200p under the price before February's profits warning, the City clearly wonders if it will ever appear.



Sainsbury

GAINING planning permission to build large stores has become very difficult, to the frustration of all the supermarket groups. This means that J Sainsbury, which wants to rebuild its market share, could be tempted to start bidding for some stores from the CWS retail business — if they eventually come up for sale.

The CWS retailing side includes 537 food stores and 32 non-food stores. The most attractive ones are the 60 superstores and 180 supermarkets. The rest are, for the main part, corner shops.

The particular appeal for J Sainsbury would be the 44 supermarkets and seven superstores in Scotland, where it is under-represented after losing the battle with Tesco to take over William Low. Moreover, the CWS food operating margins, excluding the milk business, are only 3.3 per cent and could easily be improved by becoming part of a big supermarket family.

So the temptation to get involved is there, but it would be a foolhardy move. There will be no more than a handful of stores that really suit Sainsbury's purpose and it is highly unlikely that Lanica — the would-be buyer of CWS, which apparently wants to carry on running the retail side — would sell only its best stores to a rival. Sainsbury certainly needs to look for opportunities to steal a march on Tesco: this is not likely to be one.

RJB

BEASTLY power generators. For years, they stood shoulder to shoulder supporting the national coal industry, buying good British coal providing good British heat to good British living rooms.

Now, they look like casting aside their co-operative past and bunking off with ten million tonnes of foreign coal at keen prices, brought courtesy of the soaring pound. RJB is bracing itself to sell 33 million tonnes of coal this year, at a cost of some 123p per gigajoule. Now that PowerGen has ordered 4.5 million tonnes elsewhere, RJB could face a pile-up of unwanted coal, and price pressure that rises with the pound.

With the last government-brokered contract expiring next year, RJB is so far failing to impress its transition from state lapdog to market animal. But it can still rely on one loyal friend: the incapacity of ports. Imported coal is unlikely to exceed ten million tonnes in 1998, against the industry need for 40 million. If 4.5 million has already been signed up to PowerGen, this leaves at least 25.5 million tonnes available for RJB.

Having spent so much cleaning up its potential mines, RJB's debt leaves it a finely balanced act with little room for error. But as long as exports stay down, there is time to learn.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

May	1084-1082	Jul	1049-1044
Jul	1022-1021	Sep	1056-1054
Sep	1036-1035	Dec	1070-1064
Dec	1011-1010	Mar	1080-1074
Mar	1025-1024		
May	1036-1035	Volume 5792	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1648-1643	Jan	1645/1636
Jul	1673-1670	Mar	1625-1610
Sep	1675 SLR	May	1615-1590
Nov	1672-1667	Volume 5378	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	301.4-01.6
Spot: 312.9		May	300.4-00.6
Aug	310.5-09.5	Aug	313.4-09.7
Oct	305.1-04.2	Oct	309.9-09.7
Dec	302.1-01.6	Volume 1371	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 18

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	91.68	131.32	91.61
(+/-)	+0.84	-1.50	-2.88
Eng/Wales:	91.68	133.01	91.09
(+/-)	+0.84	-0.68	-2.88
(%)	-20.0	+21.0	-34.0
Scotland:	unq	110.82	95.96
(+/-)		-10.97	-3.58
(%)		-15.0	-17.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.70	+0.45
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.35	+0.40
Brent 15 day (Jul)	18.45	+0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	20.10	+0.55
W. Texas Intermediate (Jul)	20.10	+0.50

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	196 (n/c)	198 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	169 (n/c)	171 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	80 (+2)	82 (+2)
Naphtha	173 (+2)	176 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	165.25-65.50	Aug	169.00-69.75
Jun	166.00-66.25	Sep	171.00-71.50
Jul	167.50-68.00	Vol: 8090	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	18.31-18.33	Sep	18.04 SLR
Jul	18.43 SLR	Oct	18.06 SLR
Aug	18.57 SLR	Vol: 22251	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	98.40	May	91.50
Jul	101.00	Sep	94.00
Sep	97.25	Nov	96.00
Nov	99.25	Jan	98.00
Jan	101.25	Mar	100.00
	Volume 525		Volume: 0

LIFFE POTATO (£/t) Open Close

May	30.0	30.0
Jun	unq	53.0
Nov		71.0
	Volume: 118	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
May 71.75-72.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 97	1315	1315	1314
May 97	1320	1315	1315
Jun 97	1230	1220	1220
Jul 97	1165	1155	1165
Vol: 129 lots		Open Interest: 2489	
	Index 1332 -13		

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2323.0-2323.0	3mth: 2279.0-2280.0	Vol: 105050
Lead ($/tonne)	619.00-620.00	625.00-626.00	13175
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1219.0-1220.0	1243.0-1243.5	61200
Tin ($/tonne)	5665.0-5680.0	5700.0-5705.0	29400
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1511.0-1512.5	1551.0-1551.5	124075
Nickel ($/tonne)	7195.0-7200.0	7305.0-7310.0	75920

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Jun 97	109-16	109-25	109-13	109-14	23174
Previous open interest: 173338	Sep 97	109-14	109-14	109-12	109-09	4
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 97	100.76	100.78	100.40	100.46	89182
Previous open interest: 271113	Sep 97	99.64	99.71	99.52	99.54	307
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 97	127.50	128.15	127.05	127.39	48819
Previous open interest: 105930	Sep 97	127.85	127.85	127.85	127.44	200
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 97	126.91	126.94	126.85	126.94	1001
	Sep 97	125.67	125.67	125.67	125.68	90
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 97	93.39	93.41	93.38	93.40	7428
	Sep 97	93.12	93.14	93.09	93.11	10234
Previous open interest: 460974	Dec 97	92.90	92.90	92.85	92.87	9556
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 97	96.75	96.76	96.74	96.74	7011
Previous open interest: 1326243	Sep 97	96.68	96.71	96.68	96.69	8361
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 97	93.09	93.23	93.04	93.11	13875
Previous open interest: 283731	Sep 97	93.35	93.49	93.33	93.38	7490
Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97				99.24	0
	Dec 97				99.06	0
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 97	98.02	98.09	98.02	98.07	1796
Previous open interest: 117844	Sep 97	97.95	98.01	97.95	98.00	2437
Three Mth ECU	Jun 97	95.73	95.74	95.68	95.69	1600
Previous open interest: 31220	Sep 97	95.67	95.74	95.67	95.69	755
FTSE 100	Jun 97	4329.0	4355.0	4305.0	4344.0	4194
Previous open interest: 64074	Sep 97	4336.0	4336.0	4336.0	4370.0	10

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse n/a
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6⅛ Low 5 Week fixed: 5⅝
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth 6⅛. Sell: 2 mth 5⅝; 3 mth: 5¾.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅝-6⅝	6⅝-6⅝
Interbank:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅝-6⅝	6⅝-6⅝

Overnight: open 5⅝, close 5.

Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅝-6⅝	6⅝-6⅝
Dollar CDs:	5.55	n/a	5.70	5.90	6.25
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅝-6⅝	6⅝-6⅝

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	6-5⅞	5⅞-4½
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅝	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3⅛-2⅝
French Franc:	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3⅛-2⅝
Swiss Franc:	1⅞-1¾	1¾-1⅝	1⅞-1¾	2-1⅞	2⅛-1⅝
Yen:	⅛-¼	⅛-¼	⅛-¼	⅛-¼	1-per

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $342.40-342.70 Close: $342.00-342.50 High: $342.40-342.70
Low: $341.75-342.25 AM: $342.15 PM: $342.25

Krugerrand: $341.00-344.00 (£209.00-211.00)

Platinum: $381.00 (£233.05) Silver: $4.76 (£2.905) Palladium: $156.50 (£95.70)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 21	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.1232-3.1321	3.1272-3.1300	½-¼pr	2½-2¼pr
Brussels	57.290-57.510	57.396-57.497	17-12pr	46-41pr
Copenhagen	10.583-10.617	10.597-10.606	½-¼pr	½-¼pr
Dublin	1.0490-1.0521	1.0496-1.0511	7-3pr	23-17pr
Frankfurt	2.7773-2.7869	2.7810-2.7841	½-¼pr	2½-2¼pr
Lisbon	279.74-280.65	280.28-280.55	15-0pr	½-¼pr
Madrid	234.73-235.46	235.15-235.35	13-2pr	53-34pr
Milan	2757.4-2768.6	2764.5-2767.0	13-29dis	32-54dis
Montreal	2.2805-2.2850	2.2828-2.2850	0.56-0.51pr	1.15-1.06pr
New York	1.6318-1.6353	1.6343-1.6353	0.725-0.525pr	0.238-0.207pr
Oslo	11.493-11.574	11.553-11.564	½-¼pr	½-¼pr
Paris	9.3740-9.4030	9.3943-9.4017	2½-2pr	⅝-⅜pr
Stockholm	12.458-12.507	12.487-12.507	½-¼pr	½-¼pr
Tokyo	204.45-205.32	205.10-205.32	½-¼pr	3-2¼pr
Vienna	19.549-19.612	19.576-19.594	½-¼pr	1½-1¼pr
Zurich	2.3639-2.3709	2.3678-2.3709	½-¼pr	2½-2¼pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2874-1.2883
Austria	11.99-12.00
Belgium (Com)	35.14-35.15
Canada	1.3944-1.3964
Denmark	6.4580-6.4900
France	5.7533-5.7553
Germany	1.7034-1.7049
Hong Kong	7.7475-7.7485
Ireland	1.5554-1.5564
Italy	1692.50-1693.50
Japan	125.53-125.58
Malaysia	2.5050-2.5060
Netherlands	1.9150-1.9155
Norway	7.0750-7.0825
Portugal	171.40-171.70
Singapore	1.4395-1.4405
Spain	143.90-144.02
Sweden	7.6435-7.6510
Switzerland	1.4502-1.4512

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.6340-1.6367
Australia dollar	2.1032-2.1060
Bahrain dinar	0.6110-0.6230
Brazil real	1.7290-1.7343
China yuan	13.416-13.716
Cyprus pound	0.8240-0.8340
Finland markka	8.3675-8.4935
Greece drachma	437.5-444.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.6570-12.6980
India rupee	58.09-59.05
Indonesia rupiah	3921.0-3989.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4920-0.5020
Malaysia ringgit	4.0957-4.0968
New Zealand dollar	2.3539-2.3570
Pakistan rupee	65.10 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8975-6.0215
Singapore dollar	2.3523-2.3546
S Africa rand (com)	7.2280-7.3310
U A E dirham	5.9500-6.0740

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3I	34H	Land Secs	1n5
ASDA Gp	3,100	Legal & Gn	5,300
Abbey Nat	11,300	Lloyds TSB	4,900
Allied Dom	1,700	LucasVarity	3,400
AB Foods	67	Marks Spr	4,700
BAA	1,900	Mercury Asset	554
BAT Inds	3,700	NatWst Bk	2,100
BG	5,700	Nat Grid	3,400
BOC	408	Nat Power	2,400
BP	4,700	Next	1,100
BSkyB	1,000	Orange	912
BTR	6,100	P & O	103
BT	23,200	Pearson	471
Bk of Scot	5,300	PowerGen	855
Barclays	7,100	Prudential	811
Bass	2,100	RMC	1,300
Blue Circle	1,900	RTZ	1,600
Boots	1,400	RailTrack	1,400
BAe	675	Rank Group	1,900
BA	1,300	Reckitt Col	2,200
British Land	158	Reed Intl	6,000
Brit Steel	3,100	Rentokil Intl	3,800
Burmah Cstl	232	Reuters	2,400
Burton	1,400	Rolls Royce	6,700
Cable Wire	3,500	Royal & Sun	1,400
Cadbury	3,800	Royal Bk Sct	1,900
Carlton Cms	1,000	Safeway	6,000
Centrica	6,500	Sainsbury	2,300
Cm Union	1,700	Schroders	29
Dixons	1,900	Scot & New	2,000
EMI	479	Scot Power	886
Energy Gp	925	Svrn Trent	956
Enterpr Oil	2,900	Shell Trans	3,000
GKN	276	Slebe	2,500
GRE	1,600	SmKl Bch	1,700
GUS	1,400	Smith Nph	558
Gen Acc	1,000	Smiths Inds	3,000
Gen Elec	2,500	Std Chartd	2,400
Glaxo Well	2,500	TI Gp	305
Granada	2,100	Tate & Lyle	558
Grand Met	2,700	Tesco	1,700
Guinness	886	Thames W	451
HSBC	778	Tomkins	3,200
Hanson	2,600	Unilever	984
Hays	1,900	Utd Utilities	472
ICI	1,200	Utd News	300
Imp Tob	2,900	Vodafone	3,100
Kingfisher	986	Whitbread	182
LASMO	2,900	Wolseley	1,000
Ladbroke	1,900	Zeneca	1,300

WALL STREET

	Apr 21 midday	Apr 18 close
AMP Inc	35	35⅛
AMR Corp	88	88⅝
AT & T	33	33⅛
Abbott Labs	58⅛	58
Advanced Micro	36⅛	36⅛
Aetna Life	86⅛	86
Ahmanson (H F)	36⅛	36
Air Prod & Chem	70	70
AirTouch Comm	24⅛	24⅛
Alberto-Culver B	27⅝	27⅝
Albertson's	32⅛	32⅛
Alcan Aluminium	32⅛	32⅛
Allied Signal	71½	70⅞
Alum Co of Am	68⅝	68⅝
Amerada Hess	49⅝	48⅝
Amer Brands	53⅞	53⅞
Amer El Power	30⅝	30⅝
Amer Express	60	59⅝
Amer Genl Corp	39⅝	39⅝
Amer Home Pr	61⅛	61⅛
Amer Intl	117⅛	119
Amer Stores	44⅛	44⅛
Amer Standard	46⅝	46⅝
Ameritech	58⅛	59
Amoco	82⅝	81⅝
Andrew Corp	24⅛	24⅛
Anheuser-Busch	43⅝	43⅝
Apple Computer	18⅛	18⅛
Archer Daniels	18	18
Armco	3⅛	4
Armstrong Wrld	63⅝	63⅛
Asarco	27⅝	27⅛
Atl Richfield	132⅛	131⅛
Auto Data Pro	44⅝	45
Avery Dennison	37⅝	37⅝
Avon Products	58⅛	58⅛
Baker Hughes	36⅛	35⅝
Baltim Gas & El	25⅞	25⅞
Banc One	41⅛	41⅛
BankAmerica	106⅛	108
Bank of NY	38	38⅛
Bankers Tr NY	77⅞	76⅝
Barnett Banks	45⅞	45⅛
Bausch & Lomb	38⅛	38⅛
Baxter Intl	46⅛	46⅛
Bectn Dickinsn	44⅛	44⅛
Bell Atlantic	66⅛	66⅛
Bell Industries	16⅛	16⅛
BellSouth	40⅞	41
Black & Decker	31⅛	31⅛
Block (H&R)	31	31⅛
Boeing	99⅝	99⅝
Boise Cascade	30⅞	31
Bristol Myrs Sq	80⅝	80⅛
Browning-Ferris	29⅝	29⅝
Brunswick	28	28
Burlington Nrhn	72	71½
CMS Energy Corp	32⅛	32
CSX	46	46
Campbell Soup	48⅛	47
Can Pacific	23⅝	23⅝
Carolina Pwr	38	38
Case Corp	54⅛	54⅝
Caterpillar	84⅛	84⅝
Central & SW	19⅛	18⅛
Champion Intl	45⅝	46⅛
Chase Manhat	87⅞	87⅞
Chevron Corp	65⅛	64⅝
Chrysler	49⅛	49⅛
Chubb Corp	53⅞	53⅞
Ciena Corp	142⅛	143⅞
Citicorp	104⅛	103⅝
Coca-Cola	119⅛	118⅝
Coastal Corp	45⅛	45⅝
Coca Cola Ent	19⅝	19⅝
Coca Cola Ent	61	59⅝
Colgate-Palm	107⅛	107⅝
Columbia Gas	58⅛	58⅛
ColumbiaHCA	35⅛	35⅞
Compaq Comp	77⅛	77⅞
Comp Ass Int	43	43⅝
Conagra	42⅞	43
Conrail	114	113⅞
Cons Edison	28⅛	28⅛
Cons Nat Gas	40⅛	39⅝
Cooper Inds	43⅛	43
Coorslaies	49	49⅛
Corning Inc	46⅛	46⅛
Crown Cork	55	55
Dana Corp	31⅛	31⅛
Data General	11⅝	11⅝
Dayton Hudson	71⅛	71⅛
Deere	44⅛	44
Delta Air Lines	89⅛	89⅛
Deluxe Corp	31⅛	31⅛
Digital Equip	27⅛	27
Dillard Dept St	30⅞	31⅛
Disney (Walt)	79⅛	78⅞
Dominion Res	34⅛	34⅛
Donelley (RR)	33⅛	33⅛
Dover Corp	57⅛	54⅛
Dow Chemical	89⅝	89⅞
Dow Jones	38	38⅛
Dresser	26⅛	26⅛
Duke Power	47⅛	47⅛

Wave of flotations promises critical test of Crest project

By this time next week the London Stock Exchange should know whether the latest attempt to bury its troubled techno past has been successful or whether it has found yet another banana skin.

More than a decade after the Big Bang revolution ended face-to-face dealing on the Exchange floor, and after spending more than £130 million finding the right computer system, the Crest project will finally face its test of mass dealing by an army of private investors.

The 80 million-plus Alliance & Leicester shares traded yesterday will be due for "settlement" next Monday. The Crest paperless share-trading project, which cost £29 million to build and costs £23 million a year to run, should cope with few problems. The fact is that the A&L share deals will be parcelled into 30 or 40 lots so there should be little increase on daily Crest settlements, which are running at around 145,000 transactions.

CrestCo, the operating company for the new system, may be separate from the Stock Exchange, but the success or failure of the computer network inextricably links the fate of the two concerns. Whichever way you look at it computers and the Stock Exchange have spelt trouble and expense since Big Bang on October 27, 1986.

Between 1985 and 1993, when the ill-fated Taurus electronic settlement of shares and registrations project was abandoned, the Exchange spent well over £100 million on technology to little effect. Worse still was the rapid turnover of chief executives at the Stock Exchange, culminating in the very public sacking of Michael Lawrence in January 1996.

At that point — and certainly until last summer — it was open talk in the City that the Stock Exchange was an anachronism, with the markets dominated by the most powerful players. The big houses wanted everything their own way and were prepared to fight for their interests. Not only had the Exchange frittered tens of millions of pounds on useless technology but it rarely managed to pursue insider dealers and general market abusers with any authority.

The Exchange has also been criticised for its attitude to small investors. The shift to paperless share trading under Crest has meant a move away from owning shares under individual names to the use of nominee accounts. There is nothing arcane in nominee accounts. They do mean, however, that many individual shareholders behind these accounts do not receive annual reports and accounts and do not have the automatic right to attend annual meetings unless they are prepared to pay an additional fee. The Stock Exchange also faces competition from Tradepoint, which received the go-ahead from City watchdogs last September to start business as a recognised investment exchange. Realistically though Tradepoint is still in its infancy.

The real test for Crest, and the trading volumes it can handle, will come later in the summer when the Halifax, Woolwich and Norwich Union all shed their mutual status.

In the meantime, Gavin Casey, who took over as Exchange chief executive last August, can look back with some satisfaction. A new order-driven share-trading network for City professionals is moving forward and the insider dealing unit has a new artifical intelligence monitoring system.

Many observers believe that there is a conflict of interest between the Stock Exchange's role as a regulator on the one hand and a commercial entity on the other. This could be resolved if Labour forms the next government and the promised reform of the financial services industry and the role of City watchdogs proceeds as planned.

Even so, the Stock Exchange has read the tea leaves on its commercial future and acted promptly. In London recently a delegation from China toasted the first listing on the UK exchange of a Chinese company and more will follow. The listing was the result of two years hard graft by the Treasury, the Stock Exchange and the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog. That same team is looking to attract other overseas business to London.

The Stock Exchange has started its fightback and it would be rash to write off its chances of survival just yet, but Crest is a vital ingredient in that success formula.

ROBERT MILLER

Convergence of parties hits hopes for full employment

John Grieve Smith jogs our memories over election campaign's forgotten issue

One striking casualty of the convergence of Labour and Conservative policies has been any discussion of full employment, the abandonment of which was an integral part of the Thatcher revolution. The election debate on unemployment has been limited to palliative measures to help particular groups of the unemployed.

However, unemployment, despite its recent fall, remains more than three times higher than the average level in the first 30 years after the Second World War. Monetary and budgetary policy is now based on maintaining a minimum level of 1.5 million to 2 million unemployed as an essential means of regulating inflation.

Full employment is not simply a matter of fewer people suffering the frustration and hardship of being unemployed. Its abandonment, along with the accompanying measures to make the labour market more "flexible", has led to a serious growth in inequality and insecurity. Apart from those registered as unemployed, many more are effectively denied a chance to work. Flexibility has become a euphemism for the casualisation of employment rather than an attempt to balance the varying needs of employers to those of their employees.

> "Labour has promised to follow similar financial policies to the Tories"

Until recently the Labour Party remained pledged to restore full employment, a goal explicitly reaffirmed by Tony Blair at the 1994 Labour Party Conference. Since then, however, new Labour has limited its proposed attack on unemployment to helping the young and long-term unemployed and promised to follow similar (if not stricter) financial policies to the Tories. But without a stronger demand for labour, such measures will have little, if any, effect on the total number of jobs.

All the main parties now subscribe to the New Orthodoxy, with the following three main tenets:

☐ Inflation should be controlled by interest rates, preferably by an independent central bank.

☐ Budgets should not be used for demand management (or at least not to stimulate demand; if they reduce it, that is a bonus), and budget deficits should be kept to a minimum at all times.

☐ Unemployment is purely a problem of the labour market to be solved by deregulation and increased flexibility, ie, reducing the cost of labour. This is the doctrine on which the Treaty of Maastricht was so disastrously based. It ignores the fact that higher interest rates only curb inflation by making trade more difficult, and create unemployment in order to ease the pressure of wage demands. Measures to reduce budget deficits (which are themselves a consequence of high unemployment) are aggravating an already serious unemployment problem in many EU countries, with potentially explosive political consequences.

The reduction of unemployment does not depend on making labour cheaper, as the various labour market "solutions" suggest. If the demand were there, most firms could increase their sales and output profitably at existing price and wage levels. The key problem is how to run the economy at a higher level of demand and lower unemployment without increasing inflationary pressures.

As things are, the new Government will come under immediate pressure to raise interest rates or taxes to avoid any further increase in demand for fear of inflation. If unemployment is to be reduced further, the two essentials are to take steps to avoid the stronger bargaining power of labour leading to excessive wage increases, and to expand industrial capacity so that stronger demand does not drive up prices or suck in imports.

The two go together because the confidence in continued expansion, which firms need to invest in additional capacity, depends on a convincing solution to the pay problem.

This can only come from agreement between the Government, unions and employers to keep wage increases to a moderate level in both the private and public sectors.

Unless this nettle is grasped, there can be little hope of any substantial reduction in unemployment. To try to enforce a strict pay policy in the public sector alone will only accentuate the threat of politically damaging disputes in key public services.

The new Government after the election should make a fresh start by setting up an Economic Policy Council with representatives of unions and employers to formulate a medium-term strategy encompassing both the demand and supply side policies needed to achieve full employment.

The alternative to continued use of mass unemployment to regulate inflation is to move forward to an era of formulating economic policy by co-operation and agreement — in fashionable terms, a "stakeholding" approach.

It is strange that new Labour is so afraid to offer us this choice: this must be the first time a British political party has gone into an election with a platform designed to appeal more to its opponents than its supporters!

John Grieve Smith is author of Full Employment: A Pledge Betrayed *(published last month by Macmillan at £15.99) and co-editor with Jonathan Michie of* Employment and Economic Performance *(published this week by OUP at £15.99).*

Grubby world of the gumshoe thrives in a complex market

Eric Reguly says watching the detectives demonstrates modern needs



Andrew Regan scored a public relations victory of sorts when the Co-op admitted that it had used private detectives

The boys from Kroll Associates, the world's largest corporate sleuthing firm, could not believe their luck. They had been rummaging through the dustbins of the Dorset home of Roy Tazzyman, former chief executive of Davy International, and found some curious refuse: faxed letters to senior executives at VAI of Austria, one of Davy's main competitors.

Gumshoes were not supposed to have it this easy. Kroll delivered the papers to Kvaerner, the Norwegian engineering group that inherited Davy when it bought Trafalgar House for about £900 million last year. Kvaerner was delighted. Here, at last, was evidence that supported its belief that Davy was leaking confidential information to VAI.

Kvaerner used the dustbin booty to persuade a High Court judge to allow it to raid the UK offices of VAI, Mr Tazzyman's new employer, where it claimed to have found thousands of Davy documents, including computer disks and technical material. Kvaerner accused VAI of industrial espionage and dirty tricks on a grand scale, triggering a legal row that has yet to conclude.

Industrial espionage, or corporate intelligence, as its practitioners prefer to call it, is nothing new. It has been a part of life since the dawn of commerce for the simple reason that it can provide crucial strategic advantages in a hurry. Stealing a dazzling new technology is cheaper than developing it yourself. Confidential information about a product launch, marketing campaign, acquisition strategy or the boss's mistress can alter the competitive landscape overnight. Kroll's revelation that the late Lord White's beloved racehorses were bought for him by Hanson helped to discredit Hanson's bid for ICI.

Andrew Regan, the young acquisitor with his sights set on the Co-operative Wholesale Society, believes he is the latest victim of corporate spying. He has accused his opponents of using video cameras to keep tabs on him and his family. The Co-op, of course, might argue that it is just trying to level the playing field. It wants to know if Regan received any confidential information from the two Co-op executives who were suspended last week.

Corporate sleuthing is one of the world's fastest growing industries. Almost every large company either has investigators on staff or employs them in special circumstances. Defence contractors like Racal would not be in business unless it kept its security experts hopping to meet the Government's "List X" requirements. The backgrounds of employees in sensitive project areas are thoroughly screened. Offices and board rooms are routinely swept for electronic bugging devices.

Traditionally, the mergers and acquisitions business has made thorough use of corporate investigators. Kroll, the industry leader, and its rivals were behind-the-scenes players in almost every large takeover of the 1980s and 1990s. In Britain, Kroll was secretly hired in 1995 by Rhône-Poulenc Rorer to examine when Fisons, the British drugs company it eventually won in a £1.7 billion hostile takeover, might receive US approval for the long-delayed sale of a US subsidiary.

It is suspected that Varity of the US hired private investigators last year to determine whether any company had plans to challenge its proposed merger with Lucas Industries. The investigators — their names have not been revealed — learnt that BBA, the former British Belt and Asbestos company, was eager to spoil the party. Surprisingly, private gumshoes played no role in last year's attack by Granada on the Forte hotels and catering group. But Forte turned down the opportunity to employ investigators partly because it feared their presence would come to light and trigger a public relations nightmare.

Since mergers and acquisitions are cyclical, corporate sleuths have had to develop other sources of income. According to Jeff Katz, the managing director of Kroll's UK office, the bulk of any large investigations firm divides into two areas: corporate intelligence and "problem solving". The former is designed to avoid a potential disasters; the latter to fix existing ones.

For the most part, corporate intelligence is a sophisticated form of due diligence. The sector is growing because corporations are increasingly dealing in international markets and often lack enough information about foreign partners to trust them. Before putting down £100 million to build a car components factory, say, in Eastern Europe, they want some assurance that their local partners will not vanish with the loot. Katz said: "Some countries in Eastern Europe are like the Wild West. How do you know that the people you're getting involved with are legit?"

To check them out, investigators use a combination of public records and interviews, most of them done covertly, with anyone who may have knowledge of the partners in question. In these cases, investigators rely heavily on a network of local contacts that may have taken years, even decades, to nurture. The most successful sleuthing firms "buy in" their networks by hiring professionals, such as former police officers, FBI and CIA agents, prosecutors and journalists, whose livelihoods depended on the reliability of their informants and contacts.

An ineffective contacts network can make life miserable for sleuths. In 1992, the Russian Government hired Kroll to track down the billions of dollars thought to have been spirited out of the country by corrupt Communist Party officials. Kroll had experience in asset tracking. It had some success in recovering the hidden assets of Ferdinand Marcos, the former president of the Philippines, and Jean-Claude Duvalier of Haiti. But Kroll's Russian effort proved fruitless. It had enormous trouble penetrating Russia's secretive and inefficient bureacracy and suspected that the Russian Government, in the end, lacked the political will to get the job done.

Katz said the "problem solving" side is experiencing explosive growth. Luxury goods companies have hired sleuths to find the source of counterfeit products. Investment firms have hired them to check out rumours that a valuable group of staff, such as analysts or bankers, may be preparing to defect to a rival firm. Insurers use them to examine whether a claim is honest. Although business is booming, private investigators are having trouble shaking their "dirty raincoat" image. While Kroll's examination of Roy Tazzyman's dustbins presented no legal problems, it reinforced a shabby image.

Kroll, for its part, has been accused of misrepresentation. In 1992, for example, it was hired by Austria's billionaire Swarovski family to shed some light on the failure of Zale, the big Texas jewellery chain in which it had a half interest. But the family did not want Zale's management to know Kroll was on the case. The three-man Kroll team got around the hurdle by infiltrating Zale through a small investment banking firm. But the Kroll people were exposed. Luckily for Kroll, the matter blew over; the worst outcome could have meant the loss of its investigator's licence in Texas.

A fine line divides legitimate market research and theft of propriety information. Privacy and ownership rules differ in each country. The trick for private investigators is to use the most effective intelligence-gathering methods without straying too far into the grey zone.

For companies that employ them, the trick is to ensure no one knows they have been hired. Once that little secret is out, the sleuths can become an instant liability. Andrew Regan scored a public relations victory of sorts when the Co-op admitted using private detectives. It has tarnished its otherwise squeaky clean image.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Black and blue

A NON-EXECUTIVE director at CrestCo is cutting her teeth as the Tory candidate for the Labour stronghold of Kirkcaldy.

Charlotte Black, 37, the designer-clad marketing director at Brewin Dolphin, won't be back in the office until May 6. A "born and bred Fifer", currently living in Mayfair, her family have been on the board of Nairn's, the linoleum factory in Kirkcaldy, for more than a century. A local businessman has already fallen for Black's slogan ("If you want a bright future — vote Black"), offering her a nightclub bouncer to act as chaperone.

But what about CrestCo? "Alliance & Leicester is just a dress rehearsal for the big bang in June," she says. "As far as I can see, everyone is in their costume and is ready to go."

Like old times

PETER DOYLE, a director at Zeneca, is joining Oxford Molecular as a non-executive director. His appointment to the board of the group that boasts five Nobel laureates on its scientific advisory board will be Doyle's first external non-executive directorship. Tony Marchington, chief executive, first met Doyle when he was a young graduate, employed to work under him at Zeneca. "I thought Peter was very scary at the time, but we're very good friends now."

On course to wed

CONGRATULATIONS to Martyn Arbib on the engagement of his youngest daughter, Melanie, a Montessori teacher in London. The 57-year-old father of two and chairman of Perpetual, the top-performing fund manage-


Arbib: keen sportsman

ment group, says he couldn't be more pleased with her choice: Andrew White, the son of a major-general, who works in sports management. Arbib, a keen sportsman himself, and lover of the turf, has been teaching his prospective son-in-law a thing or two on the golf course. A wedding has been pencilled in for this winter.

Debit side

IT'S not figures but spellings that Sainsbury's Bank is struggling with. The supermarket turned finance house promises to give 1,000 reward points to customers opening a savings account whose names have been wrongly spelt on their cashcard. Mark Rollason, a civil servant living in Coventry, picked up his bonus points when the bank misspelt his name "Rollonson". Keen to cover its mistake, the bank wrote him a letter to apologise, addressed to Mr Rollonson.

Back in business

ALMOST a year since BusinessAge magazine disappeared from the newstands, it is about to be relaunched. First published by Tom Rubython in 1992, it was sold to VNU Business Publications in January 1995. Anil Bhoyrul, 30, the former associate editor of Sunday Business, whose political leanings weren't a natural fit with the business weekly, has been appointed as the editor. Charles Kerr, 25, the former sales director of Sunday Business, has been appointed as the publishing director. Readers will remember that both men were caught in London Zoo, attempting to steal a penguin.

Hot plate

DAVID PROCTOR, managing director of Xpedite Systems, the fax service provider, has been showing off his latest toy. Squeezed in the executive parking spot of the York-based company is a rather unexciting executive saloon, emblazoned with the number plate "A1 FAX". Proctor forked out more than £1,000 for the Eighties throwback, and insists that it was money well spent. "My children think it's terrific," he boasts.

MORAG PRESTON

The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society
Notice to Members

Results of Voting on Special Resolution

The Special Resolution to approve the demutualisation and flotation of The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society, was passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society held on 18 April 1997 at the London Arena, 36 Limeharbour, London E14 9TH.
The result of the poll vote, as reported by the Scrutineers Ernst & Young, was as follows:

Votes cast in favour of the Special Resolution:
1,837,382
Votes cast against the Special Resolution:
21,052

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Graham Jones
Secretary
8 Surrey Street
Norwich NR1 3NG

NORWICH UNION

Shares close at best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
469	407½	Allied Domecq	432	+ 4½	6.8	13.9
826	547½	Bulmer (HP)	657½		3.0	16.6
78½	57	Burn Stewart	60		7.1	14.9
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	935		1.5	27.1
979½	425½	Grand Met	908½	- 8½	3.9	16.4
518½	424	Greenalls	513	- 3½	3.9	14.6
360	354	Highland Dist	339	- 3½	3.1	15.8
336	267	Matthew Clark	284½	- 2½	10.5	12.6
109½	89	Morgan. W	91½		6.5	12.4
1978½	1462½	SA Brewries	1815½	- 3½	1.9	

BANKS

4706½	3671½	ABN-AMRO	4112½	+ 68½	3.8	17.0
619½	710	Abbey Nat'l	817½	+ 14	4.0	14.4
578	547½	Alliance & Leic	566½		3.6	13.9
459½	388½	Allied Irish	441½	+ 3	4.0	
469½	363½	Anz Ban	389½	+ 9½	4.9	
767½	575½	Bank America	642½	+ 113½		
373½	291½	Bank Scotland	339½	+ 14	2.7	12.5
1226	978½	Barclaycard	1079½	- 18½	3.8	10.4
651	517½	Bk of Ireland	651	- 5	3.2	14.7
7790½	6265½	Cmrcbnk	6316½	- 143½		
1731½	1268½	Commrcbnk	1631½	- 3½	2.6	
862½	599½	Dbk Wtfs Asr ▼	681½	+ 21½	0.6	
3498½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	3190½	- 99½	2.0	
912½	728½	Espirito Santo	867½	- 7½	3.8	12.6
672½	586½	First Bank 1	627½	- 7	0.6	
1622½	1322½	HSBC	1539½	- 31½	3.3	13.3
1563½	1331	HSBC Hld	1485½	- 31½	3.6	12.9
605	483½	Irish Permt	572		2.8	18.3
544½	424	Lloyds TSB®	533½	- 17½	3.1	17.3
613½	489½	Nat Aust Bk	597½	+ 12½	5.1	10.8
944½	663½	Nat Westr	697	+ 18½	5.2	10.5
632½	508	Rnl Bk Scot	544	+ 14½	4.3	12.0
900½	681	Stand Chartr	872½	- 18½	2.1	15.7
2164½	1764½	Standrd Fargo	2164½		1.9	
374½	316½	Westpac	322		4.1	10.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

879½	763	Bass	790½	- 6	4.0	15.6
681	514	Bk for the Bdr	62		4.0	14.2
205	179½	Burtonwd Brw	178½		4.9	15.9
1668½	1514	Cab Centre Pest	140		2.9	
1421	612½	Compass Gp	1375½	+ 1	2.3	25.6
2597	1835	Enterprise P	2497½		0.4	17.0
518½	435	Fullr Sm A	480		2.5	16.0
566	502½	Greenalls Gp	520	- 6½	3.7	16.3
750	643	Grtaer Lndn	697	+ 9	2.9	17.2
2577	1615	Grosvenor Inns	1931½		2.6	20.8
2482½	2090	Hilton Group	2381½		1.4	25.2
2467½	2118½	Gregs Hldgs	2381½		1.4	25.2
1998½	1574½	Hanson	1787½		4.8	12.6
367	316½	Lks Service	355½	+ ½	5.6	11.7
132	102	Laurelrst	104½		9.8	7.0
14½	11	Lndsp Grp	13½	+ ½	6.1	12.2
9	5¼	Maidstone	8½		11.1	13.0
41½	32½	Mcalistairs	33½	+ 1½	1.8	
472	259	Mortson	345		4.1	6.8
166½	131½	Northamber	157	+ 10	1.1	9.4
362½	296½	Pizza ▼	333½		3.0	17.5
401½	342½	Pendrocast	357		3.4	16.9
323½	190½	Perry Gp	305		5.6	
751	665	Premier Farnell	700	- 1	3.6	18.2
152½	124½	Queens Group	132½		6.6	
348	307½	REA	316	- 1	1.6	
		Reece	2			233
28	18½	Ronson	19	+ ½	9.9	6.5
3	1½	Ross Gp	3			
109½	78½	Rutland	91½		5.5	16.4
36	32½	SFP Hldg	36		7.8	7.5
2½	1½	Saltire	2½		8.6	5.7
1622½	1322½	SCOTT	1539½	- 31½	3.3	13.3
1563½	1331	Scot Nwcstle	1485½	- 31½	3.6	12.9
605	483½	Irish Permt	572		2.8	18.3
544½	424	Lloyds TSB®	533½	- 17½	3.1	17.3
613½	489½	Nat Aust Bk	597½	+ 12½	5.1	10.8
944½	663½	Nat Westr	697	+ 18½	5.2	10.5
632½	508	Rnl Bk Scot	544	+ 14½	4.3	12.0
900½	681	Stand Chartr	872½	- 18½	2.1	15.7
2164½	1764½	Standrd Fargo	2164½		1.9	
374½	316½	Westpac	322		4.1	10.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

32½	20½	AIR Inds	28½			
262	170	Abbey	300		3.5	20.5
397½	337½	Aiken	385		3.6	19.7
38½	25	Amec	38½		2.6	11.7
593	337½	Amey	482½	+ 9½	3.3	21.6
555	465	Andrews Sykes	535		7.5	11.6
224½	152½	Ashtead	213½	+ 3	1.4	24.2
42	29	Ashtead 'A'	40		2.7	16.3
42	30	Bailey (Geo. Cm	34½		4.7	6.0
39½	24½	Bandi	35	+ ½	3.9	21.8
64½	46½	Bardon	58½		2.6	33.6
291½	247	Barratt Devel	256½	- 1	2.2	14.3
230	162	Bespak	174	+ ½	2.4	19.3
381½	299½	Bellway	344½		3.0	17.1
21½	16½	Bellhaven	20			13.2
762½	606	Berkeley Gp	695	- 1½	1.5	17.4
165	150	Bett Bros.	151		4.6	14.6
235	200	Bovis (Henry)	215		4.7	
99½	92½	Brandon Hire	96½	- ½	3.1	12.0
55½	37½	Britannia Grp	39½	- ½	2.2	
70	62½	Br Bldg & Eng	68	- 1½		
198	132½	Brunt'l	178½	- ½	5.0	17.7
163½	98½	CALA	141		3.9	14.6
5	3	Campbell & Arm	5			
81½	55½	Clarke TI	73½		8.3	13.0
46	36	Cyclean ▼	36			
98½	71	Countryside	95		3.4	34.2
219½	177½	Costain Thompson	183		3.4	19.6
82½	67½	Crescent	65		4.6	
175	166	Eve Group	175		11	
17½	15½	Galliford	20½	- 1	6.1	22.4
952½	857½	Gleeson (M.J)	930		2.2	16.7
98½	85½	Green (Ernest)	97½		6.5	18.2
308½	252	Havelock Euro	299		1.9	
153½	109	Hemlen-Stuart	143	- ½	7.7	19.9
21½	16½	Howard Mdgs	17½		5.7	19.7
252	123½	Jarvis	249½		0.8	
33½	18½	Ibstock	32½		2.6	15.9
350½	189½	Kier	315½		3.8	12.9
341	275	Lamp (Jn)	335½		3.5	
139½	110½	Lamp 6.4% Cv Pf	119½		6.7	
7½	3	Lowell (JJ)	7½			
210½	162½	Maunders (J)	197½		3.7	14.5
164½	125½	McAlpine (Alf)	161½	+ ½	5.4	16.1
120½	57	McCarthy & ¶	119½	+ 2½	2.4	17.6
75	53½	McInerney	65			
255½	180½	Morgan Sindall	244½		2.7	14.8
336½	236½	Mowlem Cons	322½		2.2	21.1
136	109½	Mowlem (J)	126½		3.0	13.9
266	214	Persimmon	255½	- 2	5.0	15.5
125	108½	Pochin	111		2.8	11.6
138	108½	Redland	138		3.4	15.5
207	124	Rome Ind	191½	+ 2		15.3
177½	145½	Redpnt	156	- ½	3.7	15.9
315	255	Sherrd Hldg.	279		3.3	15.9
73	48	Shorco	54½		10.0	
42½	32½	Spondex	37½		5.3	16.7
103	86	Swan Hill	86	- ½	3.6	
153½	115	Tay Homes	135		6.6	29.3
194½	153	Taylor Woodrw	190½	- ½	2.5	16.7
657½	512½	Tilbury Dougls	655	+ 10	4.4	17.0
29½	13½	Tty Group	25½			16.3
73	58½	Wimpson	67½		7.5	
134½	112	Wimhomes	128½		4.4	
64½	36½	Wood Hdgs	55			
271	238½	Yeadney	268		3.1	21.7
10¼	7½	Wimpey	9¾			40.1
173½	152½	Wilson (C)	165	- ½	3.6	18.3
545	471½	Wilson Bowdn	533½		2.6	18.3
156	125	Wimpy GI	139	- ½	4.9	43.9

BUILDING MATERIALS

388	302	BPB	330	+ 2½	3.8	15.9
110½	95	Baggeridge Brk	95	- ½	4.1	23.3
47½	33	Bardon	47½	- 1	5.3	20.2
48½	37½	Blockleys	38			
473½	351	Blue Circle†	423½	+ 8½	3.9	18.0
91½	73½	Breedon PLC	86	+ ½	7.0	
140½	119	Br Dredging†	129	- 1½	5.7	
640½	569½	CRH	616	- 1	1.8	
59½	47½	Castlerad Rbyl	50½		4.8	5.4
193½	166½	Cape†	172½	- 1	4.3	
274½	236½	Caradon†	256½		4.6	12.6
134½	116	Caradon pf	129½		7.2	
65½	50½	Chicken Gpt	61½	+ 1	6.1	8.5
277½	257½	Dyson (JB.)	268		3.6	14.1
145	122	Dyson A	136½		4.9	7.6
4	2½	Ferguson	3½			
290	233	Epwin	266		4.3	16.8
150½	112½	Fibre	149½		4.0	12.7
386	329	Gibbs & Dandy†	369		5.2	8.5
144	126	Graham Gpt	135½		5.3	
367½	295½	Hartstead (J)	293½	+ ½	4.0	13.5
306	271½	Hanson	299½	- 3	5.0	
277	249½	Heiwerth	275½	+ 8	6.7	16.7
90	72½	Hewden	74½		4.4	14.9
368	233½	Heywd Wmn	352		6.8	10.5
75½	66	Ibstock	69½		3.6	
530	470	Johnson	520	+ 2½	2.9	
82½	65½	Lilleshall	78½		7.0	13.0
131½	119	Marley†	129		4.8	13.7
160½	119½	Marshalls†	130½		5.0	14.0
423½	361½	Meyer Int	420½		3.4	17.8
180½	143	Newman Tnks	173		5.3	
99½	77½	Norcros	92½		4.3	16.2
225	171	Phoenix Timbr	220		1.6	11.0
158	115	Pilkington	118	- ½	5.3	19.0
284½	225	Pohlgrnd	247	- ½	1.5	20.2
1025	879½	RMC Gpt	945	+ ½	4.9	13.8
381½	322	Redland	346½	+ 7	6.2	16.5
97	74	Rexhes	81½	- ½	7.4	9.1
114½	95½	Rubserold	99½	- 2½	8.0	
116½	91½	Rugby Group†	109		4.1	18.4
102½	92½	Ruzzell (Alf)	102½		4.4	
346½	241½	SGB	307		3.8	15.9
3½	2¼	SWF	2½			
237½	211½	Sharpe & Fisher†	232½	- 1	3.1	17.4
21½	12	Sinnng Rain	13½			
167½	127½	Steeltime Hldgs†	177½		6.1	
118½	93½	Tarmac	118½	+ ½	5.8	
140	100	Titon	127½	+ ½	4.9	11.7
545	453	Travis Perkins†	497½	+ 9½	2.3	19.3
52½	34½	Tudor†	47½		3.8	15.9
514	441	Wolseley	501½	+ 6½	3.6	16.5

CHEMICALS

173½	142½	Albright & Wil	164	- ½	5.3	12.1
137	116½	Allied Colloids	125½	- 1	2.9	22.4
130	117	Amtco Intl	127½		9.6	10.8
189½	97½	Arrbrton Gp	94½		2.0	19.6
3	6½	Anglo Utd	2¼			9.8
2425	2112½	BASF Dfd	2400	- 3½	2.7	
1040	854½	BOC	908	- 11½	4.0	15.6
388	344	BTP	381½	- ½	5.1	14.8
2959½	2346½	Bayer ORD	2487½	+ 16½	2.2	
112½	82½	Bond Chemcl	92		4.3	10.7
224½	185½	Br Vita†	212	- 1½	4.8	13.0
192½	167½	Brent Mand	178½		6.9	9.9
311½	270½	Cuming (W)	305		3.5	
222½	162½	Cry Technology†	184		1.0	19.5
402½	331½	Courtaulds	371½	- 3½	8.1	17.2
364	299	Croda†	317½	- 4½	4.0	13.2
305½	210½	Dodfss	294½	- ½	3.4	
320½	294½	Ellis & Everard	296		4.0	13.8
73	49½	Exlo Colour	66	- 6	4.3	13.0
106½	81½	Gibbon	83½		10.5	6.9
68½	52	Hickson	67			16.4
2600	2316½	Hoechst	2538½	+ 18½	2.2	
152½	118½	Holliday Chem	148½		4.5	14.0
780½	681½	ICI	691½		4.6	13.2
144½	110½	Inspec†	133	- ½	4.1	10.6
135½	119	Kalon†	125	+ 2	9.2	20.6
719	635	Laporte†	651	- ½	4.7	13.9
192	163	Marsland	170		15.5	16.6
91	66	Mentmore	69		3.9	
36	28	Metalrcl	28½		3.1	18.2
308	240	Ponzo	308		2.3	28.2
246	213	Scapa	213½	- 1	10.1	9.7
29	21	Sutcliffe Speak	27		4.4	8.9
1379½	1136½	Tateds Chem	1346½	- 10½	0.8	23.5
787½	597½	Wtsmthmr Rt	657½		4.8	
243	185	Yorks Cpt	242½		4.7	
381½	342	Yule Catto†	364	+ 5½	3.1	16.0

DISTRIBUTORS

202½	152½	Acton Cp Spls	188½	- 6½	0.7	21.5
390	305	Acrow & Harvey	320		6.0	5.3
21½	8½	Alexandrs†	9½		1.3	
73½	53½	Appleyard	54	- 1	10.9	
3	2	Ass Br Eng	2½		3.0	
545	510	BSS Group	510		5.0	14.9
16½	13½	Bearing Perm	14			
38½	34½	Bisgod 'A'	37½		2.6	10.5
656	610	Bremner	652½	- 3	3.1	
22	19½	Bridgend Gp	20		4.8	10.2
119½	99½	Bsl Prngpt	116½	+ ½	4.5	
310	300	Caffyns	302½		4.8	12.5
187½	162½	Cal Group	171½		3.8	15.7
137½	117½	Cavendish†	128½	- ½	5.5	
100	73½	Charles Sidbry	75		7.3	
59½	51	Cook (DC)	54		5.2	6.4
121	97½	Day Mortmr†	104		9.3	
134½	131½	Dennans B	131½	- 1	7.6	13.7
406	348½	Diploma	347½	- 5½	3.1	15.2

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

420	327½	Amalgamtd	382½		1.7	
328	183½	Ascot Hldgs	299½	+ 2	2.2	
876	790	Bnken Hill	812½	- 1½	3.0	18.6
299	237½	BTR†	249½	- 1½	4.8	10.8
568	452	BTR†	527	- 4	6.2	11.2
192½	138	Bibby Lf)	188½		5.0	11.0
80	60½	Brentke Inv	65		8.6	9.0
836½	715	Charter†	807½	+ 16½	4.6	11.4
366	210½	Coalsnon	321½	+ 1	4.8	13.3
1295	1042½	Cookson	1261½		3.0	20.9
317½	259½	DCC	309½	+ 3½	2.8	12.3
133	115½	Grampian Hdg	121½		6.4	12.5
1300½	823	Hanson Cnsltd	1229	- 3	9.6	11.7
1400½	1233½	Hollick Wkngs	1400	+ 2½	2.2	19.0
397½	325½	Imperial Tobacco	421½	+ 1	5.9	8.4
397½	335½	Jardine Matht	341	+ 3½	4.5	
1598½	1273	Jardine Str	1525	+ 15	1.5	
1295½	1151½	Lucas Varity	1257½		5.3	12.8
1753½	1557½	McLeod Russel	1575½		5.3	12.8
540½	388½	Morgnch Dufrve	444½	+ 1	7.0	17.5
145	113½	Rapnor	145		9.0	
150	153½	Staveley	179½	+ 5½	6.4	12.8
602½	458½	Smrt Pacific	456½	- 6½	2.8	12.0
362½	227½	TI Group	358		2.7	15.6
1196½	1036½	Tomkins	1169½	- ½	4.9	13.2
3012½	2328½	Trafalgr Lnsp ▼	2883½	+ 12½	1.8	
185½	154½	Plasmec	154½		5.0	
238½	171	Plasmon	182½	- 1	0.3	22.6
245	208½	Pressac†	228	- ½	2.2	16.2
48	31	Prosbnds	43		2.3	10.0
440½	351½	Polarm†	413	+ 3	3.0	12.3
301½	240	Racal Elect	247½	+ 4	3.0	18.4
124½	99½	Radamec	123½	+ 6	3.1	19.6
380	338	Renishawt	358½		2.7	16.5
3½	2	Redbrn	2½			
219½	192½	Rotork	217		3.8	12.9
233½	175½	SDX Bus Sys	205½		1.3	28.3
411½	375	Severnmed	394		2.7	18.4
83½	65½	Silvermines	66	- 1	2.5	
4040½	3671½	TDK	4321½	+ 100	0.6	
108	68	Tarmac	71½		5.9	7.5
125½	99½	TLG	108	- 1½	4.9	12.1
36½	19½	Tadpole Tech†	23½			
65½	51½	Telemdnet	51½	- ½	3.5	34.3
307½	175	Thorn†	245			
157½	130½	Thorpe Flttr	137½		3.8	11.6
327	271	Total Systems	30		6.2	8.9
287	197½	Tunstall	210		3.0	12.0
97	76½	Vantr	84½	+ ½	0.3	
198½	140	Vitec	142½		5.1	9.7
462	405	Volex	423		6.0	12.5
	15½	Wolfenhmre	17			
184½	86½	Wheelco	172½		1.8	49.8

ELECTRICITY

162½	125½	Eb Energy PP	134½	- ½	7.4	
671½	660	East Midlands	670		5.9	9.9
570½	463½	Edmndg Group	498	- 3	5.3	9.6
709½	678½	London Elect	705½		7.3	10.8
2244½	192	Nedlloyd Grid	2185½	- 1½	6.4	8.8
544½	462½	Nedlloyd Pwer	526	+ 2½	5.6	10.0
391	352½	Nthn Ireland	364	+ 7	6.7	6.0
664	566½	PowerGen	649	+ 7½	4.3	7.5
394	319½	Hydro-Elect	379½	- 1½	5.4	9.7
388	331½	Scottish Power	374	- 1	6.3	11.5
1967½	1612	Scttsh Elec	1827	- 6½	6.6	10.3
928	786½	Yorkshire Elec	926½		5.8	12.3

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

562½	378	Aim	560		1.6	19.8
78½	58½	APH	61		5.5	
37	28	ASW	37			
378	285	Alumasc	365	- 1½	3.5	12.4
149	124	Alvis	144		2.6	16.1
203½	173	Ash & Lacy†	173	- 1	5.2	9.0
667½	600½	Atlas Elects	637½		4.4	
109½	95½	Avdmn Metal	105½		5.9	
370	327½	BBA†	346½	+ 3	3.5	18.6
129½	107½	BMI†	112½	- ½	7.4	9.3
78	54½	Babcock	77		3.1	
11½	8	Bailey (CH)	8¾			6.3
132½	103	Baynes (Charles)†	111		3.3	13.2
44½	26½	Beaufrng	39	- 1	2.4	
67½	45½	Benzone Group	50		1.2	
1425½	1349	Bensted Ind	1295½		4.2	21.2
80	72	Bentley	72		9.2	43.2
807½	680	Bodycote	760		1.2	
44½	37½	Booth Inds	41½			
28½	23½	Brenner	26½		4.1	10.2
132	102	Brooks	118		5.3	17.1
1375½	1187½	Br Aerospace†	1351	+ 2½	1.4	19.1
163½	139½	Br Sthnl	146½	- 1½	8.5	5.5
141	111½	Brooker Tool	112½		3.3	7.2
34½	26½	Bullough	32½		2.4	11.8
119½	72½	Bullough	117½	- 1½	5.8	35.6
208½	167½	Carclo Eng	203		6.6	10.5
297½	252½	Castings	253½		3.2	16.1
166	138	Chamberlin Hll	139		7.0	9.4
1265	1085	Chloride	1195		3.7	15.1
2268½	1721½	Cmcssn B'	1998½	+ 3½	1.0	19.5
385	278	Clyde Blowers	350		2.9	16.9
541	447½	Eurotherm	449½	+ 1	2.5	16.3
645	542½	Fenny Group	554		2.1	17.1
368	291½	Filtronic Com	328½	- 7½	0.2	
325	125	Fmarsh Gp	224		1.2	15.8
33	24	Forward Tech	29		5.4	
414	352½	GEC	371½	+ 1½	4.3	18.9
171½	136½	Gracetnt	150		5.5	
148½	110½	Ind Control	145½		3.1	15.7
26	17	Inlec	18		6.2	16.0
115	99½	Kelsrt	113½		2.8	9.8
54½	37½	LPA Ind	49		4.9	16.4
338	295	Meiwa-Sa	307½	- 2½	4.6	17.8
39½	27½	Micrnotor	35	+ ½	4.5	
42½	32½	Mtchll B	42½			
458	378½	Orford Ind	385		2.2	13.7
230½	75½	Pace Micro	80		3.8	89
125½	84½	Pacer Indstcl	114	- 1½	3.5	
99	63½	Peak	64		10.2	6.1
3012½	2328½	Philips Lmp rts	2883½	+ 12½	1.8	
185½	154½	Plasmec	154½		5.0	
238½	171	Plasmon	182½	- 1	0.3	22.6
245	208½	Pressac†	228	- ½	2.2	16.2
48	31	Prosbnds	43		2.3	10.0
440½	351½	Polarm†	413	+ 3	3.0	12.3
301½	240	Racal Elect	247½	+ 4	3.0	18.4
124½	99½	Radamec	123½	+ 6	3.1	19.6
380	338	Renishawt	358½		2.7	16.5
3½	2	Redbrn	2½			
219½	192½	Rotork	217		3.8	12.9
233½	175½	SDX Bus Sys	205½		1.3	28.3
411½	375	Severnmed	394		2.7	18.4
83½	65½	Silvermines	66	- 1	2.5	
4040½	3671½	TDK	4321½	+ 100	0.6	
108	68	Tarmac	71½		5.9	7.5
125½	99½	TLG	108	- 1½	4.9	12.1
36½	19½	Tadpole Tech†	23½			
65½	51½	Telemdnet	51½	- ½	3.5	34.3
307½	175	Thorn†	245			
157½	130½	Thorpe Flttr	137½		3.8	11.6
327	271	Total Systems	30		6.2	8.9
287	197½	Tunstall	210		3.0	12.0
97	76½	Vantr	84½	+ ½	0.3	
198½	140	Vitec	142½		5.1	9.7
462	405	Volex	423		6.0	12.5
	15½	Wolfenhmre	17			
184½	86½	Wheelco	172½		1.8	49.8

ENGINEERING

562½	378	Aim	560		1.6	19.8
78½	58½	APH	61		5.5	
37	28	ASW	37			
378	285	Alumasc	365	- 1½	3.5	12.4
149	124	Alvis	144		2.6	16.1
203½	173	Ash & Lacy†	173	- 1	5.2	9.0
667½	600½	Atlas Elects	637½		4.4	
109½	95½	Avdmn Metal	105½		5.9	
370	327½	BBA†	346½	+ 3	3.5	18.6
129½	107½	BMI†	112½	- ½	7.4	9.3
78	54½	Babcock	77		3.1	
11½	8	Bailey (CH)	8¾			6.3
132½	103	Baynes (Charles)†	111		3.3	13.2
44½	26½	Beaufrng	39	- 1	2.4	
67½	45½	Benzone Group	50		1.2	
1425½	1349	Bensted Ind	1295½		4.2	21.2
80	72	Bentley	72		9.2	43.2
807½	680	Bodycote	760		1.2	
44½	37½	Booth Inds	41½			
28½	23½	Brenner	26½		4.1	10.2
132	102	Brooks	118		5.3	17.1
1375½	1187½	Br Aerospace†	1351	+ 2½	1.4	19.1
163½	139½	Br Sthnl	146½	- 1½	8.5	5.5
141	111½	Brooker Tool	112½		3.3	7.2
34½	26½	Bullough

Staveley to sell division as part of refocusing

By Oliver August

STAVELEY INDUSTRIES is to sell its £135 million measurements business as part of a strategic review that will see the group focus on the service sector.

Roy Hitchens, the chief executive, said he would prefer to sell Staveley Measurements as one business but may consider selling off parts of it if that would significantly increase the sale price of the business.

Barings, Staveley's appointed banker, has received statements of interest from companies in the UK and in the US. The measurements business is split geographically between Europe and America.

Mr Hitchens said: "We prefer to sell it all in one because it would be quicker. But this is no fire sale. We are looking at a six-month programme and it's early days."

The sale of Staveley Measurements will result in a stronger balance sheet and a more focused approach which will enhance the growth rate of Staveley Services, the group said.

Cost cutting in the group management structure is also part of the new strategic focus. Redundancies have not been ruled out in the company's quest for savings.

The group said it has identified annual savings in the region of £3 million involving one-off exceptional redundancy and other costs of approximately £4 million.

Harry Tuley, chairman, said: "The recent strategic review has confirmed the board's belief that increasing the focus on our services businesses will create excellent prospects for sustainable profitable growth."

Staveley Measurements comprises Weigh-Tronix and Salter Weighing, Chronos Richardson Systems and Staveley NDT Technologies. The division generated operating profits of £5.6 million in 1995-96 from sales of £135.6 million.

Mr Hitchens said: "We had to make a decision in terms of focusing. And we decided to focus on services which have better growth prospects and more investment opportunities. We couldn't afford to invest in both services and measurements."

Staveley Minerals, the UK salt and brine businesses, will not be sold even though Mr Hitchens conceded that there are no synergy benefits. The division is being kept for its strong profit and cash contributions.

After the strategic review, the group expects to have "a stronger balance sheet and more focused approach to enhance significantly the growth rate of the services business".

The shares responded to the news of the sale with a 5½p rise to close at 179½p.

Venture capital deals top £3bn

By Robert Miller

BRITISH venture capital companies had another bumper year in 1996, investing a record £3.2 billion worldwide.

Annual figures published yesterday by the British Venture Capital Association (BVCA) show that investment in the UK rose by 31 per cent last year to £2.8 billion. In the past five years UK investment by venture capital firms has nearly tripled from £989 million.

The venture capital industry provides funding for young companies but its main source of growth has been in backing management buy-ins and buyouts. Investment in start-ups and other early-stage companies rose 54 per cent to £131 million but was dwarfed by the record £2.1 billion invested in buy-ins and buyouts.

The average size of financing in deals done last year increased to £2.3 million from £1.9 million. The South East grabbed the lion's share of funding with £1.2 billion and it doubled in the North West to £355 million and to £82 million in East Anglia.

David Quysner, chairman of the BVCA, said: "Investment into venture capital funds needs to be increased and sustained so that the industry can continue to play its vital role in supporting the successful high-growth businesses of tomorrow that create real jobs and boost the UK economy."



John McGrath, left, and George Bull have overseen a series of disposals in the past 12 months

GrandMet sells Aunt Nellies

By Alasdair Murray

GRAND METROPOLITAN, the drinks and food company, will take a £39 million charge at the half-year stage after the sale yesterday of its US fruit and vegetable business for £15 million.

GrandMet is disposing of the Aunt Nellies Farm Kitchens business. It was acquired as part of The Pillsbury Company in 1988 and is being sold to Seneca Foods. The company said the exceptional charge included £28 million of previously written-off goodwill. The business broke even on a turnover of $50 million last year.

Paul Walsh, chief executive of Pillsbury, said the sale was part of the company's drive to dispose of low-return businesses. GrandMet has made a series of disposals, including the sale of most of its European food operations, since John McGrath took over as group chief executive last year, succeeding George Bull, who is now the chairman.

Shares in the company rose to a five-year high, advancing 8½p to close at 508½p, on continuing positive comment from analysts.

Andersen warning over end of PRP

By George Sivell

ARTHUR ANDERSEN, which claims to be a pioneer of profit-related pay (PRP), believes that the phasing out of tax relief on such schemes between now and the year 2000 will push up wage costs for all British businesses. Costs could rise as much as 8.4 per cent, according to an Arthur Andersen survey.

The business advisers believe that retailing, banking and the media, where profit-related schemes are common, will be especially hit but that the ripple effects will extend to the wider business community.

Arthur Andersen believes that more than 14,000 businesses covering 3.7 million workers could be affected. Brian Friedman, head of Andersen human capital services, says: "In many cases there is no easy replacement, so it is a question of how the extra tax is shared between employers and staff.

"While it is too early to make definite predictions, at least one third of respondents are looking simply to revert to pre-PRP arrangements. Such a strategy will impose inevitable pain on employees and may eventually push up costs for employers too.

"Unless a PRP exit strategy is clearly communicated to employees, they will feel they are losing out. Employers will then find they have been boxed into expedient action and may end up having to adopt the most expensive PRP replacement option.

"A typical business would experience an extra 3.5 per cent increase in its payroll costs, if forced to top up employees pay. In extreme cases, the costs could be as much as 8.4 per cent."

Arthur Andersen said that on March 31 two thirds of respondents to its survey had not told staff of the implications of the phasing out of PRP. The consultants say: "An average employee earning £20,000 a year stands to lose £2,070 over the next three years as tax relief on PRP is phased out. Once wage packets are hit in spring 1998, employees will be concerned. Employers should plan replacement programmes now."

Routes for exiting from PRP include share-based incentive plans, reverting to pre-PRP salaries, benefit packages and making up shortfalls in pay.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Symonds uncovers 'holes in accounts'

SYMONDS, the engineering group, yesterday said that it had discovered "significant breaches of internal controls" in its precision engineering division. The company, based in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, issued a profits warning earlier this month. It has appointed Arthur Andersen, the firm of accountants, to investigate. Rod Ackrill, Symonds's chairman, said: "We have found some holes in the accounts which have managed to wipe out the division's profits for this year. But they won't wipe out the group's profits." Mr Ackrill said that the group's recent acquisitions and its core electronic assembly and printed circuitboard businesses had performed in line with or exceeded expectations.

However, Symonds yesterday gave warning that its pre-tax profits were likely to be lower than expected. An estimate of the results is expected to be included in a trading statement next month, while the final results are scheduled to be announced in June. Meanwhile, Ken Garner, who was dismissed as managing director of the precision engineering division earlier this month, has been replaced by Pat Curren, who joins Symonds from Burnfield, the engineering group based in Solihull, West Midlands.

AT&T hit by launch costs

AT&T, the world's largest telephone company and British Telecom's main international competitor, reported a 17 per cent drop in first-quarter profits to $1.13 billion, held back by the launch costs of several new operations. A new online business and expanded local and international services pushed up AT&T's expenses but analysts said the results were in line with expectations. Revenues advanced marginally to $13.05 billion for the quarter as performance improved on local phone services and other operations.

British Fittings expands

BRITISH FITTINGS, the stockholding and distribution company, is expanding its business through the £2.8 million acquisition of the pipeline equipment distribution arm of J Saville Gordon (Tubes & Fittings). British Fittings will assume responsibility for paying trade creditors and will collect £3.6 million of debt of Saville's behalf. The purchased business made a pre-tax profit of £760,000 last year on sales of £13.5 million. British Fitting is funding the deal by issuing 1.5 million shares at 113p.

Bisichi lifts profits 41%

BISICHI MINING, the mining investment company, raised pre-tax profits 41 per cent to £161,000 in the year to December 31. Net assets rose 1 per cent to £6.14 million and earnings were up 48 per cent to 1.35p a share. The dividend increased 8 per cent to 0.81p The company returned to full-scale mining production for the first time since 1983 and expects the Black Wattle Colliery in South Africa to make a good contribution in 1997 because of strong demand for low-cost extraction coal. The shares rose 2p to 33½p.

Hamlet buys in JRI

HAMLET GROUP, the distribution group, is buying in the 49 per cent minority in its subsidiary JRI for £3.75 million. Hamlet is paying £250,000 cash and reducing inter-company debt by £3.5 million. JRI made £3.2 million in the 15 months to June 30, 1996, on sales of £38.8 million. Acquisition of the minority is subject to shareholder approval. The company also announced the appointment of John Lusher, a former main board director of Marks & Spencer, as chairman to replace Malcolm Dagul, who resigns at the end of the month.

Zeneca invests £17m in fungicide plant

By Paul Durman

ZENECA Agrochemicals is supporting the sales growth of its new fungicide by investing a further £17 million at its manufacturing plant in Grangemouth in Scotland.

The investment will create about 50 jobs in a new formulation and packaging facility for Zeneca's Amistar fungicide. The company has previously spent £22 million on a plant in Grangemouth to make the active ingredient in Amistar.

Since Amistar was first licensed in Germany in April last year, it has gained registrations on 12 crops in 14 countries. Zeneca said that these included cereals and vines in Europe, bananas in Central America and turf-grass in the US. The company expects sales to accelerate as additional registrations are received.

Amistar is effective against a wide range of fungal diseases that have become resistant to existing fungicides.

Zeneca also said its new £11 million plant at Cold Creek, Alabama, has begun producing a key constituent for Amistar.

☐ Peter Doyle, the Zeneca director in charge of research and development, has joined the board of Oxford Molecular, the drug design software company.

Cirqual spending £14m

CIRQUAL, the specialist engineering group, is spending £14.7 million on buying RFI, an electronic components supplier, and Thomas Wild Forgings, a private metal-forging and casting business (Chris Ayres writes).

The biggest outlay is for RFI, which is being bought for £9 million from Siebe, the international controls manufacturer. Both purchases are being funded by increased bank borrowings.

Cirqual's interim results for the six months to February 28 showed pre-tax profits doubling from £1.34 million to £2.78 million. Turnover was also up, from £9.19 million to £13.47 million.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
ELECTION 97 READER FORUM
MEET TONY BLAIR



Friday is your chance to ask Tony Blair about his party's plans for government should Labour win the election. This is a unique opportunity for readers of The Times and The Sunday Times to have a say in the campaign with the man who aims to be prime minister

Tony Blair will speak for about 20 minutes before answering questions from the audience. The event, to be held in central London on Friday, April 25, will take place between 8pm and 9.30pm. Tickets, which must be booked in advance, are £10 each (£7.50 for students, pensioners and unemployed). Telephone First Call on 0171-420 0000. Lines are open 24 hours.

Your Lux just changed.

From May 6th you will be able to fly direct to Luxembourg from London Gatwick with a choice of three new flights each weekday.

Call British Airways on 0345 222111 or contact your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop.

Services operated by the independent carrier CityFlyer Express Limited.

BRITISH AIRWAYS
Express

The Favourite Candidate



When it comes to choosing the right PC, Gateway 2000 is your best candidate.

Our policy is to deliver the best quality PCs at the best possible prices direct to your door – whatever the economic climate! And that's not all. We'll tailor-make a PC to your personal specifications, ensuring that it's suited to your individual needs.

With an impressive range of systems from power-packed portables to top-of-the-range desktops, we firmly believe that we offer you more choice than ever before.

Take a look at the P5-200M, featuring a 200MHz Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology, 32MB of SDRAM and a 3.8GB EIDE hard drive – it boasts awesome power and speed, accelerating and enhancing all your applications. It's also got a Mitsumi 12-16 speed CD-ROM, a 2MB SGRAM graphics accelerator and a package of pre-loaded software which includes the Microsoft® Generations Software Bundle.

At Gateway 2000, we care about you. That's why we offer you award-winning service and support, including free technical telephone support on all our hardware and software for as long as you own your PC, and a 30-day no-quibble money-back guarantee (shipping costs not refundable) and Gateway 2000® warranties.

Vote for Gateway 2000 and vote for the company that cares. Call us now and find out what we can do for you.

P5-200M

- Intel 200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ technology
- 32MB High Performance SDRAM
- 512K Pipeline Burst Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- Mitsumi 12-16X (min-max) CD-ROM
- Quantum 3.8GB EIDE Hard Drive
- Integrated Creative Labs Sound Card with Altec® Lansing ACS41 Speakers with ACS251 Subwoofer
- Integrated ATI GT 3D 2MB SGRAM Graphics Accelerator
- EnroViva 33.6K Fax/Data/Voice Modem
- 17" CrystalScan® Monitor*
- ATX Tower Case
- Microsoft® Windows® 95 105 Keyboard
- MS® Windows 95, MS Intellimouse
- MS Generations Software Bundle
- Internet Software Bundle
- Software Pack Enhanced for MMX technology
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

£1649 (£1971.65 inc. VAT & Delivery)

Call our Friendly Sales Team now or call in to the Gateway 2000 Showroom, 10 Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9HE. You'll be glad you did!

Showroom Hours of Business:
12.30 pm – 6.30 pm Mondays
9.30 am – 6.30 pm Tuesday – Friday
10.00 am – 4.00 pm Saturdays
Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays

FLEXIBLE BUSINESS FINANCE OPTION. CALL FOR DETAILS

GATEWAY2000
"You've got a friend in the business."®
0800 74 2000
http://www.gw2k.co.uk
Gateway 2000, Clonshaugh Industrial Estate, Dublin 17, Ireland.

MMX intel inside pentium® processor

All configurations and prices are subject to change without notice or obligation. ©1997 Gateway 2000 Europe black-and-white spot design, "G" logo, "You've got a friend in the business" slogan, CrystalScan, AnyKey and Gateway 2000 are trademarks or registered trademarks of Gateway 2000, Inc. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. All other brands and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. All prices quoted in Sterling. All sales subject to Gateway 2000 Europe's standard terms and conditions and limited warranty. Industry standard practice is to measure monitors using the CRT size. Actual viewing area can be approx. 1.5" less.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
For AIB see Gavett (Jsy)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
Gemsaf Acc	729.00	775.60	+ 3.30	2.31
Gemsaf Inc	604.00	642.60	+ 2.80	2.31
UK Growth Acc	505.70	537.60	+ 1.80	2.48
Uk. Growth Inc	323.80	343.70	+ 1.20	2.48
Higher Inc Acc	923.50	981.20	+ 1.80	3.94
Higher Inc Inc	473.90	504.20	+ 0.90	3.94
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	215.20	227.40	+ 0.40	5.57
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	91.52	97.10	+ 0.17	5.57
Nth America	343.60	365.10	+ 0.90	-
Europe	393.10	418.20	+ 3.60	0.28
Ent Excell	99.50	105.90	+ 0.30	2.57
Ent Aggress Acc	126.80	135.60	+ 0.20	4.56
Ent Protectr Inc	83.64	89.06	+ 0.10	4.56
Global Opps	102.30	109.90	+ 0.70	0.11
Balanced Acc	66.46	70.71	+ 0.27	2.30
Balanced Inc	61.48	65.41	+ 0.25	2.30
Japan Acc	37.91	40.33	+ 0.53	-
Pac Basin Acc	379.10	403.30	+ 1.80	0.91
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	132.30	140.40‡	- 0.30	6.63
High Inc Equity	194.90	206.40‡	- 1.00	4.56
Worldwide Bond	263.60	279.30	+ 0.80	4.30
American Growth	313.30	341.30	+ 3.20	0.38
Asian Pacific	319.70	341.90	+ 0.20	2.76
Euro Capital Acc	201.80	215.80	+ 1.50	0.73
Extra Inc	42.84	45.51‡	+ 0.08	8.03
General	299.00	307.40	- 0.10	2.99
Global Opps	73.53	78.22	+ 0.34	0.51
Japan	88.60	94.76	+ 1.85	-
Managed Inc	49.08	52.22‡	0.62	4.31
Maidenhead	174.20	186.10	+ 0.70	1.29
US Emerging Cos	168.70	180.40	- 0.50	-
Ethical	97.52	93.11	+ 0.03	1.58
International	136.80	145.50	+ 1.00	0.60
Dividend & Growth	72.83	77.48	- 0.23	4.34
Global Gwth & Soc	75.49	80.47	+ 0.17	2.51
Latin America	80.53	85.67	+ 0.05	0.46
Capital Reserve	140.40	149.40	- 0.10	4.71
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
M&P UK Growth	97.25	103.40	+ 0.25	2.31
Equity Income	137.10	145.80	+ 0.40	4.11
Extra Income	269.60	282.70	+ 0.90	5.56
Smaller Cos	113.90	121.10‡	- 0.10	1.48
International	118.50	123.90‡	+ 0.70	1.40
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2547.00	2647.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 830 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	62.28	64.50‡	+ 0.14	-
Emerging Mkts	74.58	79.18	+ 0.14	0.04
European	163.70	170.70	+ 0.30	-
Extra Income #	51.34	54.03‡	+ 0.04	6.02
Far East Emg Eqn	126.30	132.50	+ 0.20	0.47
Fixed Interest #	26.81	27.88	+ 0.06	8.71
Flexi Inv 1st #	163.10	171.70	+ 0.30	1.69
Japan	151.50	159.60	+ 2.10	-
Latin American	68.68	71.69	+ 0.03	0.68
Pacific	79.50	83.66‡	+ 0.47	0.31
Property Shares	81.30	85.63	+ 0.17	2.05
UK Emerging Cos	72.69	76.56	+ 0.11	1.23
UK Growth	58.86	61.30‡	+ 0.20	1.91
Abs World Pot #	85.45	87.40	+ 0.13	2.84
Ethical	87.81	85.08	+ 0.21	2.08
Aberdeen Cal Inc #	50.26	50.31‡	- 0.04	7.37
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5968				
Result Property #	99.03	106.30		5.34
ALLCHURCHES IIW MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 956				
Allchs Income	97.82	103.79‡	+ 0.20	1.95
Income Builder Inc	86.36	91.77	+ 0.25	3.81
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 01793 610 388 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	206.20	327.30‡	+ 1.10	2.64
Capital	553.80	592.00‡	+ 1.40	1.06
Balanced	898.10	960.00	+ 2.70	2.54
Accumulator	1733.00	1852.00‡	+ 5.00	1.88
Income Trusts				
American Income	68.54	73.18‡	+ 0.11	2.22
High Income	494.00	527.90‡	+ 1.60	4.04
Equity Income	279.50	298.60	+ 0.80	3.72
High Yield	297.40	317.90‡	+ 5.10	3.78
Gov't Securities	34.22	36.13‡	- 0.08	6.04
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	225.20	240.70‡	1.30	0.05
European Growth	59.94	64.00‡	- 0.07	0.06
International	191.70	204.90‡	+ 1.00	0.11
Japan	156.30	167.00	+ 3.10	-
Pacific	382.90	408.80	+ 4.20	-
Secs. of America	595.50	634.40	+ 0.60	0.12
Wwide Assct Val	55.94	59.73‡	+ 0.29	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	694.00	741.80	+ 2.30	1.84
Cons & Gen	53.04	56.69‡	+ 0.12	3.74
Smaller Cos	215.60	230.40	- 0.10	0.99
2nd Smaller Cos	204.30	218.30‡	- 0.20	0.71
Recovery	179.60	191.90‡	+ 0.30	1.47
Mer Bks & City	152.80	163.30‡	+ 0.20	0.19
Overs Earnings	462.30	494.10‡	+ 1.40	0.95
Technology	210.60	225.10‡	- 1.10	-
Uk Special Sec	624.10	667.10‡	+ 1.40	1.61
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Cntrcts Out Perc	124.60	129.40		
Foreside Pers Pens	73.03	75.87		
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0033				
Capital	91.48	97.30	- 0.19	0.77
International	68.34	72.70		
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	349.60	374.10	+ 1.70	-
Bond	117.90	124.10‡	- 0.20	6.61
Brit Smlr Cos	119.30	126.90		1.78
Core & Gen #	70.49	74.99	+ 0.04	5.15
Europe	306.30	325.30	+ 1.50	0.10
Euro Smlr Cos	126.30	134.80	+ 0.30	0.21
Income Gwth	396.10	421.40‡	+ 0.60	4.45
Japan	358.30	385.20	+ 3.50	-
Latin American	101.40	107.90	- 0.50	0.58
Pacific	114.20	121.60	+ 1.00	0.53
UK Smlr Cos	60.87	64.76	- 0.01	1.23
Japan Fd	506.70	522.00	+ 5.00	-
Mngd Fd	211.80	225.00‡	+ 0.70	2.67
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 488 0673				
Bd & Obsec	395.30	422.30		0.84
Capital Gwth	140.70	148.80		2.81
Worldw Opps	233.10	246.60		0.88
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 522 4000				
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inc	456.40	485.50‡	+ 0.60	2.12
European Bd Inc	99.51	102.20	+ 0.10	5.72
Exempt	89.73	95.46‡	+ 0.08	2.58
500	524.40	553.90		2.04
General	348.90	372.30‡	+ 0.50	2.18
Property	258.60	277.70		5.43
Trustee	346.70	362.40	+ 0.40	2.14
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.30	100.30‡	+ 0.10	5.37
Distribution ⊕ #	118.10	118.70‡	-	5.88
Extra Income #	148.10	158.00‡	+ 0.20	4.50
Gilt & Fixd Int	93.45	98.08	+ 0.10	4.56
Income #	606.30	678.70	+ 0.30	4.47
Income Builder #	73.09	77.84	+ 0.04	5.11
Intl Income	74.62	79.60	+ 0.43	1.84
Growth Trusts - Uk				
Capital	153.80	163.70	+ 0.20	1.96
FTSE 100	110.80	117.40	+ 0.10	2.43
Leisure	184.00	196.20	- 0.20	1.58
Recovery	536.10	571.80	+ 0.30	2.21
Smlr Cos Inc	90.16	96.18	+ 0.02	2.07
Special Sits	441.10	469.30	+ 0.70	1.90
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	186.70	197.80	+ 1.00	0.20
F East Gwth Acc	294.70	312.60	+ 2.50	0.37
Fa East Gwth	174.80	186.00	+ 1.20	0.27
Euro Gwth Inc	201.30	213.00	+ 1.60	0.65
- do- Accum	218.90	231.70	+ 1.80	0.65
Japan	112.00	118.60‡	+ 1.90	-
- do- Accum	113.30	120.00	+ 2.00	-
Japan Spec Sits	53.19	56.36	+ 0.35	0.95
Worldwide	200.00	213.30	+ 1.50	0.88
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	140.20	148.20	+ 0.90	-
Amer Smlr Cos	129.60	139.00		-
Convertibles	61.43	65.50‡	+ 0.11	4.40
Eastern	278.30	299.40	+ 2.70	0.30
Emerg Income #	156.30	167.60	+ 1.10	4.15
European Growth	396.60	419.70	+ 3.20	0.80
Europe	403.40	429.80	+ 1.20	0.80
Global Growth	93.74	99.35	+ 0.41	0.50
Global Bond	70.69	74.35	+ 0.03	6.20
Global Growth	145.80	154.90	+ 1.40	0.40
Japan Growth	159.50	169.40	+ 3.70	-
Japan Sunrise	106.10	112.60	+ 3.00	-
Newer Trust	49.84	52.90	+ 0.25	-
Portfolio	154.30	164.90	+ 0.60	2.00
- do- Accum	294.30	313.90	+ 1.10	2.00
Uk Growth	116.90	125.50	+ 0.60	3.00
Uk Smaller Cos	105.10	114.00‡	+ 0.40	1.90
Select Managers	91.24	97.91‡	+ 0.29	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3000				
Intl Grwth Port Inc	92.41	98.31		-
Spectat Oppor Inc	65.62	70.02		
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	156.47	165.58‡	+ 0.06	1.45
- do- Accum	183.21	193.87	+ 0.09	1.45
Smaller Cos	175.26	185.46	+ 0.38	0.40
Higher Yield #	60.73	64.39‡	+ 0.23	3.99
American Gth Inc	104.58	110.67	- 0.18	-
European Growth	175.53	185.81‡	+ 0.70	-
- do- Accum	180.31	190.81	+ 0.72	-
Mngd Portfo Inc	58.11	59.36‡	+ 0.17	1.27
- do- Accum	58.53	61.91	+ 0.18	1.27
Int Spec Opps	173.62	186.05	+ 0.39	-
Pacific Gth	157.14	166.29	+ 1.60	-
Uk General #	107.17	113.41	+ 0.11	2.90
- do- Accum #	116.29	123.05	+ 0.12	2.90
Japan	46.01	48.69	+ 0.70	-
Gilt & Fixed Int #	101.72	105.41	- 0.23	6.17
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Shrd Dated Gilt	84.21	85.04‡	- 0.05	6.61
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5090				
Emrmg	196.20	206.60	- 0.40	1.87
UK Growth	227.10	239.00	+ 0.30	2.16
UK Income	157.30	165.60‡	+ 0.30	4.52
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gro Dist	244.40	259.10	+ 0.50	1.53
- do- Income Dist	133.70	141.70‡	+ 0.30	3.53
- do- Accum	445.70	472.40‡	+ 1.20	3.53
Gilt & Fxd Int	40.95	43.02	- 0.04	6.22
Glbl Opps Dist	240.30	254.80	+ 0.40	1.98
Glbl Opps Accl	377.30	399.40	- 0.40	5.80
Intl Growth	232.30	247.30‡	+ 1.40	0.18
North American	267.30	283.30	+ 0.80	0.06
Far East	302.70	323.70	+ 2.50	0.60
UK Smaller Cos	248.40	265.70	+ 0.40	1.08
European	180.60	186.80	+ 0.70	0.47
Japanese Growth	39.20	38.34‡	- 0.33	-
High Income	295.20	251.30‡	+ 0.70	4.04
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0181 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	221.10	234.40‡	+ 0.70	-
European Inc	103.60	110.00	+ 0.70	0.37
Smaller Cos (4-1)	116.40	123.50‡	+ 0.40	1.09
Growth	564.40	632.40	- 1.20	1.59
Income & Growth #	499.10	531.00	+ 1.70	3.57
- do- Accum #	765.50	814.10	+ 2.60	3.57
Japan & Gen	93.02	98.80	+ 0.30	-
Hallmark Cash	512.80	513.34‡	+ 5.00	1.75
- do- Accum	515.80	516.60	+ 5.00	1.75
Special Sits	137.10	145.90	+ 0.40	1.98
High Yield	116.22	110.73	+ 7.00	4.01
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 9708				
Cazenove Portfolio	106.74	114.00	+ 0.29	2.15
American Portfolio	128.54	134.40	+ 0.29	1.09
European Portfolio	147.42	156.71		0.56
High Income	52.81	52.95	- 0.02	7.18
Japanese Portfolio	53.83	57.10‡	+ 1.08	-

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	157.44	168.30	+ 0.90	0.79
UK Equity	103.26	110.34‡	+ 0.30	3.22
UK Equity & Bd	81.35	86.93	+ 0.12	6.19
Uk Smlr Cos	54.82	58.64	+ 0.05	1.61
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Tm Fd Inc	608.33	620.55		4.19
Im Fd Acc	608.33	620.55		-
Fxd Int Sec Inc	150.73	156.35		9.15
Fxd Int Sec Acc	155.73	156.35		-
CCF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	800.91	813.01		4.26
Investment Acc	837.76	838.33		-
Fixed Int Inc	126.20	128.70		9.16
Fixed Int Acc	240.07	241.03		-
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5959				
Beckman Intl	84.87	88.48		5.69
Becti Bio-Tech	37.64	41.04		-
Accm Ethical Tst	186.95	196.31		0.44
City Fin Assets	80.72	84.78‡	+ 0.44	1.82
City Fin Intl	87.91	92.31‡		0.06
Finans Hse Cap	321.59	342.12	+ 1.39	2.32
Rockley Wrld Gth	139.55	147.82‡		-
J Twd Inc/Dis Inc	58.69	63.68		3.71
Chow Unitholes	65.79	68.38	+ 0.14	6.48
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.49	63.12	- 0.25	-
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	79.23	84.29	+ 0.19	-
Dragon Growth	69.95	74.81	+ 0.59	0.39
Equity High Inc	98.64	104.38	+ 0.26	3.75
Fxd Int Inc	126.20	128.70	+ 0.30	9.16
Fxd Int Sec Acc	155.73	156.35		-
COF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	800.91	813.01		4.26
Investment Acc	837.76	838.33		-
Fixed Int Inc	126.20	128.70		9.16
Fixed Int Acc	240.07	241.03		-
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5959				
Beckman Intl	84.87	88.48		5.69
Becti Bio-Tech	37.64	41.04		-
Accm Ethical Tst	186.95	196.31		0.44
City Fin Assets	80.72	84.78‡	+ 0.44	1.82
City Fin Intl	87.91	92.31‡		0.06
Finans Hse Cap	321.59	342.12	+ 1.39	2.32
Rockley Wrld Gth	139.55	147.82‡		-
J Twd Inc/Dis Inc	58.69	63.68		3.71
Chow Unitholes	65.79	68.38	+ 0.14	6.48
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.49	63.12	- 0.25	-
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	79.23	84.29	+ 0.19	-
Dragon Growth	69.95	74.81	+ 0.59	0.39
Equity High Inc	98.64	104.38	+ 0.26	3.75
Fxd Int Inc	126.20	128.70	+ 0.30	9.16
Fxd Int Sec Acc	155.73	156.35		-
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	74.57	77.67	+ 0.17	3.98
Capital	69.41	73.13	+ 0.29	2.36
High Income	53.11	55.32	- 0.11	6.69
Top 50	61.46	64.02	+ 0.22	2.51
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	203.69	211.99‡	+ 1.14	4.33
Long Gilt	43.97	45.78‡	+ 0.13	8.32
Monthly Inc Plus	51.71	53.87‡	- 0.13	9.32
Preference Share	49.61	51.68‡	- 0.16	7.64
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	147.87	154.05‡	- 1.12	5.54
Managed Fund	78.59	81.87‡	+ 0.26	2.71
UP Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	55.36	57.67‡	- 0.15	1.66
- do- Accm	68.20	68.67‡	- 0.17	1.65
UK & General	104.63	109.00‡	+ 0.27	2.71
- do- Accm	138.70	144.49‡	+ 0.39	2.77
UK Growth	211.47	220.30‡	+ 0.36	1.27
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	228.27	237.81‡	+ 2.04	0.61
Far Eastern Gth	125.67	130.92‡	+ 1.22	0.62
Global Bond	72.86	75.84‡	+ 0.19	6.54
Japan Growth	93.20	97.09‡	+ 1.61	-
North Amer Gth	250.41	260.87‡	+ 0.59	-
Oriental Growth	92.13	95.98‡	+ 0.64	0.27
Worldwide Growth	13.95	17.04‡	+ 0.50	-
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.67	91.67‡	+ 0.03	5.54
Homemates Fund	93.36	99.33	+ 0.48	2.17
Quilter Fund	162.63	173.03	+ 0.15	2.08
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5866				
Consistent UT	37.24	39.81		3.97
COOKE (HENRY) IIW FUNDS LTD				
0800 528 358				
Growth	195.60	208.10‡	- 1.00	1.78
Income	75.85	80.69	+ 0.25	4.37
European	89.15	95.27	+ 0.74	0.29
Recovery	187.00	198.90‡	+ 3.70	2.58
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 253 0494				
Equity Dist	1049.30	1065.30		3.25
CREDIT SUISSE IIW FDS (UK) LTD				
01527 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	117.00	124.40‡	+ 0.40	1.09
Income #	297.70	316.60‡	+ 1.30	4.42
- do- Accm #	809.60	861.20	+ 3.60	4.42
Smaller Cos	242.90	258.30	- 0.30	0.92
- do- Accm	302.50	321.80	- 0.40	0.92
Gilt Portfolio	108.30	113.00	+ 0.40	1.25
High Inc Port #	87.88	93.27	+ 0.28	4.48
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1622.60	1655.40		-
Uk Small Cos	2320.90	2416.90		2.74
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	243.69	251.20		3.14
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 565				
UK Balanced Inc	186.20	198.00	+ 0.40	1.63
UK High Inc Inc	193.90	206.20	+ 0.40	3.45
- do- Accum	265.90	282.80	+ 0.80	3.45
UK Pref & Fixed Int	68.18	63.00	- 0.12	5.78
Commercial Opps	109.70	116.70‡	+ 0.30	1.39
UK Smlr Cos #	77.47	82.41	+ 0.03	0.97
Extra Income Inc	50.53	53.75	- 0.12	6.66
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 525				
Convertibles #	23.31	24.77‡	+ 0.07	5.65
Enterprise	114.70	121.60		2.06
Equity Income #	149.60	159.00‡	+ 0.80	3.77
European	68.69	72.03	+ 0.05	-
Financial	61.83	65.48	+ 0.21	1.53
Growth & Inc #	303.30	322.30	+ 1.00	2.71
High Dist #	189.30	201.10	+ 0.60	4.23
International	402.40	429.40	+ 2.30	0.22
Int Cap Inc	108.80	117.20‡	+ 0.50	2.30
Latin American	35.65	38.09	+ 0.05	-
Pacific	81.87	87.09	+ 0.59	-
Prel High Inc	22.87	24.23‡	- 0.01	7.43
Tokyo	176.40	186.60	+ 3.00	-
UK Smaller Cos	252.30	270.70	+ 0.20	1.08
Dwendin Unit Trusts				
Jap Smlr Co	290.80	308.60‡	+ 7.30	-
Nth Amer	441.80	468.40	+ 2.10	0.62
UK Inc & Grth	257.10	285.10‡	+ 0.70	2.60
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
Bth Director Dlgs	129.88	138.91‡	+ 2.97	1.03
Growth Acc	284.00	302.86		0.63
Income	618.61	659.93		5.03
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7281				
Endurance Fd	231.90	246.70‡		0.69
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	97.70	102.84	+ 0.21	1.60
Ethical Tst	47.02	49.49	+ 0.02	1.01
Far Eastern	253.42	268.86	+ 2.13	1.50
High Income	153.08	161.14	+ 0.23	4.54
Uk Index Trckng	56.14	59.09	+ 0.17	3.06
Intl Growth	148.95	154.68‡	+ 0.55	0.70
North American	153.75	161.84	- 0.42	1.77
Pelican	153.94	162.04‡	+ 0.35	2.89
Smaller Cos	77.32	81.60	+ 0.17	2.68
Special Sits	98.20	103.37	+ 0.15	2.62
Tst of Inv Trsts	224.71	236.54	+ 0.35	1.42

For Evermore see Laurence Keen

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144

Capital Growth	104.15	111.70‡	- 0.01	-
Fd of Inv Trsts	55.87	59.74		0.49
High Income #	40.63	43.54‡	- 0.07	11.48
Warrant	46.75	50.02‡	+ 0.03	-
Zero Preference	45.78	48.57	+ 0.11	-

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 220 707

Family Asset Tst	103.10	108.60‡	+ 0.20	2.38
United Charities	349.20	362.90‡	+ 1.30	1.97

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
Cust/enq: Private Clients: 0800 414 161

Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.50
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	26.18	27.13‡	- 0.20	5.39
Strategic Inc	27.52	28.76‡	- 0.01	3.91
Income Funds				
High Income	27.77	29.16‡		5.28
Income Plus	141.80	150.80	+ 0.20	3.97
European Income	53.88	57.23	+ 0.26	2.36
UK Gilt Cash	94.69	96.25	+ 0.04	2.31
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	56.92	60.72	+ 0.17	-
American	334.80	356.50	- 1.20	-
Asset Spec Sits	192.70	205.20		-
Japan Smaller Cos	22.82	24.07	+ 0.05	-
European	252.20	268.70	+ 1.09	0.50
European Opps	90.47	96.23‡	+ 0.46	0.02
Global Priv	35.85	37.27‡	+ 0.07	0.30
UK Growth	132.60	141.00	+ 0.30	1.39
Growth & Inc	194.80	207.20	+ 0.40	2.24
Intl PEP	51.23	54.48	+ 0.15	1.00
Japan Spec Sits	84.00	89.01	+ 1.19	-
Japan	153.00	162.20	+ 1.70	-
Managed Intl	357.30	380.20	+ 1.10	0.69
Moneybuilder	67.32	71.58	+ 0.19	-
Recovery	67.03	71.28‡	+ 0.05	1.92
Smlr Co's Asia	184.30	196.50	+ 0.40	0.98
Special Sits	603.50	651.20	+ 1.10	0.52
Specialist Funds				
Cash Access Units	118.77	118.77	+ 0.04	5.50

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 814 2700

Balanced #	153.90	156.30‡		1.67
Flexibury Prf Inc #	101.68	102.50		5.05
Cap Profile	168.80	170.30	+ 1.40	0.48
General Opps	148.90	150.40‡		3.31
Growth Inc	99.84	40.30	+ 0.10	1.91
Private Portfolio	485.20	502.80		1.19

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Dlg 01277 690 386 Admin/Mail 01277 680 350

Euro Smlr Cos	156.20	166.80	+ 0.60	0.88
High Income	22.82	24.17‡	+ 0.14	9.31
Japan Smlr Cos	14.37	15.32‡	+ 0.06	-
Us Smaller Cos	426.40	454.00	+ 1.80	-

For Foster & Braithwaite see Quilter

FRANLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq 01791 690 6500 Dealing 0345 725611

American Growth	77.20	82.55‡	- 0.44	-
- do- Accm	77.50	82.55‡	- 0.44	-
Amer Smlr Cos	567.70	626.60	- 1.10	-
- do- Accm	600.40	642.10	- 1.30	-
Capital Tst	420.40	447.20‡	+ 0.60	1.09
- do- Accm	620.80	660.40‡	+ 1.10	1.09
Cont'l Smlr Cos	62.17	65.46	+ 0.23	0.97
- do- Accm	65.14	70.71	+ 0.25	0.97
Convertibles	146.90	155.80	+ 0.30	5.17
- do- Accm	324.40	345.10	+ 0.40	5.17
Emerging Markets	69.11	73.84	+ 0.06	0.54
- do- Accm	69.86	74.42	+ 0.05	0.54
European	160.40	169.90	+ 1.50	0.50
- do- Accm	169.50	180.00	+ 1.50	0.50
Extra Income	416.40	443.00	+ 1.80	4.02
- do- Accm	671.40	714.30	+ 2.90	4.02
Financial	189.50	201.60‡	+ 0.60	0.46
- do- Accm	202.80	215.90‡	+ 0.60	0.46
Gilt Trust	62.72	64.67‡	- 0.02	6.65
- do- Accm	100.50	103.70‡		6.66
Healte Fund Inc	348.30	357.40	- 0.20	-

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---



■ VISUAL ART

A masterpiece in miniature: the National Gallery focuses on Dürer's superb painting of Saint Jerome



■ LITERATURE

Writer and role model Walter Moseley finds that fame brings its responsibilities

THE TIMES ARTS



■ POP

Motown gal out of London town: Gabrielle turns on the smoochy sensual stuff for Dublin



■ TOMORROW

Will the Royal Opera House go populist when it reopens after the redevelopment?

VISUAL ART: The National Gallery is giving one small panel a special show. **Richard Cork** describes *Saint Jerome*

Passion and power of Dürer's saint



NATIONAL GALLERY

Dürer's *Saint Jerome*: the young artist shows profound sympathy with the torment of an old man

Striking his chest with a stone, Saint Jerome atones for past sins in a landscape as wild as his own emotions. The penitent's only companions are a lion, resting after the removal of a thorn from his paw, and two birds poised by a stream. But Jerome pays no attention to them. Absorbed in the ferocity of remorse, he kneels before a crucifix and punishes himself without flinching.

Although Albrecht Dürer was in his mid-twenties when he painted this small panel, it is fired by a profound sympathy with the torment of an old man. None of the scholarship and ecclesiastical renown Jerome accumulated during his long career avails him now. Driven by abject self-abasement into a hermit-like existence, he has flung his cardinal's robe and hat on the ground. The scarlet garment lies crumpled in a tangle of grass and plants, its fur-lined collar still curved into the shape of his neck.

No longer feeling that he deserves to be arrayed with such magnificence, Jerome bares his bald head, withered arms and bruised torso to the mountain air. He wants, like King Lear, to cast off worldly lustre and expose himself to "what wretches feel". Even the Bible, which secured his high reputation when he translated it into Latin, is used here merely as a prop to help him to retain his balance. Its pages offer no consolation as he strains upwards, searching for absolution in the heavens.

Since Dürer's painting is so diminutive, he could have been excused for concentrating on Jerome alone. But the fascination of this remarkably intense image, now the subject of a special exhibition at the National Gallery, arises from its all-encompassing scope. Far from focusing on one man's plight, Dürer defies his panel's physical limits and offers a vision of the macrocosm surrounding Jerome in all its immensity.

The young artist's ability to perform such a feat had been sharpened by a trip to Venice in 1494-95. His Alpine watercolours testify to a deepening involvement with close observation of nature. The knowledge gained during these studies helps to give the countryside in the National Gallery's painting its first-hand freshness, and the panel's extraordinary luminosity shows how much he must have learnt from his encounters with Venetian art. Bellini's *Saint Jerome Reading in a Landscape*, executed about a decade before Dürer's painting, is suffused with an alert, sensuous awareness of the sun's transforming impact on a craggy locale. The radiance achieved by Dürer surely owes a great debt to his Italian contemporaries, and the National Gallery's panel was for many years ascribed to the Veronese artist Francesco Caroto.

> Even the Bible is no consolation as he searches for a sign

The longer we look at this hallucinatory picture, however, the more it seems the unmistakable product of a northern European imagination. Dürer has no interest in echoing the serenity of Bellini's hermit, who sits on a rock and examines his biblical text with complete calm.

In Dürer's troubled version the lion is given a substantial role, reclining next to Jerome and staring with a pent-up power that might easily erupt in sudden action. The bullfinch and goldfinch by the water, clearly identifiable despite their microscopic size, are within perilous range of his paw.

Dürer defines their plumage, and the pebbles on the bank of the stream, with a naturalist's precision. Of all German Renaissance artists, he was the one who best exemplified his era's awakening insistence on an empirical scrutiny of nature. Watercolours included in the exhibition prove how intently he explored the minutiae of rock formations in a quarry near his Nuremberg home, or the interplay between water, pines and sky in an especially limpid scene. Even though some spontaneity was lost, Dürer's rapt response still animates the deliberation he needed in order to paint his panel.

It seems to be freighted with a dense accumulation of knowledge about the landscapes he had studied. But there is nothing pedantic about his determination to pack sections of the picture with an abundance of plant-life and heavily foliated trees.

Above all else, he ensures that the landscape contributes to the emotional turbulence experienced by the saint himself. Looking at this image, we gradually realise how many of its diverse elements end up conveying the pressure inside the penitent's head. The rock face surging above the lion is vertiginous enough to induce dizziness in the most seasoned climber. Firs threaten to tumble from its heights, and this unsteadiness affects Jerome's body as well. His left knee juts out awkwardly as it struggles to remain secure. Jagged folds of drapery gather around thigh and calf alike, accentuating his bodily strain. He seems almost as liable to fall as the crucifix in front of him, perched so insecurely in the stripped and rotting fibre of a dead tree-trunk. Even the Gothic church spire in the forest behind seems about to be engulfed by oppressive vegetation, pressing against it from every side.

No wonder the old man looks apprehensive as he searches for a sign in the firmament. Unlike Bellini's Jerome, Dürer's saint sports a beard riddled with convoluted waves. They seem to be the outward manifestation of his own nervous energy, and the tension finds no release in the sky blazing above a snowy mountain range on the horizon. Strips of brilliant yellow cast a barbarous glow on the land glimpsed beyond the saint's outstretched right arm, making the earth appear to be streaked with blood.

Still more disturbing are the clouds agitating the space Dürer gives them. In an engraving of the subject he produced around the same time, trees and monstrous weeds continue to sprout at the top of the picture. In the painting, by contrast, an unusually generous amount of the composition is given over to sky alone. And the clouds invading it are agitated. Dark patches swirl and writhe in front of their paler counterparts, giving them all a gathering instability.

The suspicion that they might be reacting to some greater cosmic turbulence is confirmed by the mysterious image painted on the reverse of the panel. Executed with a slashing freedom reminiscent of the apocalyptic paintings made by Ludwig Meidner just before the First World War, it exchanges the clarity of the other side for tantalising elusiveness. But it appears to centre on a yellow fireball, giving off scarlet rays while shooting across a dark sky. Since Dürer's parents knew the astronomer Bernhard Walther, who helped to conduct pioneering investigations into comets, he may have based this painting on scientific research. In 1492 a meteor fell in Germany, and Dürer was himself able to scan the heavens after buying Walther's house with its built-in observatory.

All the same, his willingness to flick particles of paint into this spattered image removes it from the realms of scientific illustration. It looks more like a nightmare experienced by the artist, a portent of the apocalypse he went on to depict in his celebrated series of woodcuts inspired by the Revelations of Saint John. There, burning stars rain on a defenceless population. Here, in the painted panel, the explosion on one side is not allowed to invade the landscape on the other. But the threat of obliteration is palpable enough, and Jerome is supposed to have heard the trumpets sounding the Last Judgment as he assailed his own flesh. Hence the overriding mood of suspense in a complex work where, even as Dürer rejoices in the richness of the natural world, he emphasises its alarming fragility.

● *The exhibition is at the National Gallery (0171-747 2885) until June 8*

AROUND THE GALLERIES

BETWEEN Ireland and London, in the never-never-land beyond passport control in the apparently endless tubular corridors at Heathrow's smart new Pier 4a, are a series of deliberate, well-judged artistic interventions. Complaints about the length of the walkways prompted the BAA, advised by the Public Art Development Trust, to give three Irish artists a rare opportunity to try out repetition on a non-stop, not necessarily willing audience. In a strange, unnerving take, where what seems to be a reflection in a mirror turns out to be a precise and exact copy running down the other side, **Andrew Kearney's** elaborately rounded counters protrude from the wall like closed sea anenomes. Each carries a numerical count which appears to change, move or shift at the passing of each passenger. In the middle of the journey, **Philip Napier** has shunted up a mass of black and white printed place names from the front of Irish buses till they appear from far away to be a sea of pointillist painting. From close up a mass of familiar as well as unknown names are accompanied by the melodious sound of names read out in Gaelic. In the last section, *Points of View* by **Frances Hegarty**, a number of photographic portraits of past passengers have been adjusted, extended, distorted in the computer until they work with the movement along the conveyor walkway.

Heathrow Airport, Terminal 1, Pier 4a (0181-745 7224) until December.

☐ THREE photographs and two paintings from the Eighties by **Julian Schnabel**, the last big "romantic" painter, are on show at Timothy Taylor Gallery. *Bucephalus* (1988), a large painting upon a dirty tarpaulin, has chunky lettering spelling nothing much painted across it, yet despite the fact that such grand paintings are out of fashion, it still looks good.

Timothy Taylor Gallery, 1 Bruton Place, London W1 (0171-409 3344), until May 24.

☐ AT Laurent Delaye there is a mixed show, curated by Margaret Murray, of image-packed new American painting. **Cheryl Donegan** shows a few dull unstretched canvases, while three video monitors show the artist in various stages of making a painting. **Christian Schumann's** *Eterno* shows pill bottles and teardrops in a colourful caricature cartoon vision. "Naughty" **Nicola Eisenman** has set up a display like a windowsill at a seaside junk shop, interwoven with her slightly adolescent doodles and cheeky drawings. Across the surface of **Steve DiBenedetto's** *Cathedral* a network of detail spins together a highly coloured web of receding perspective. **Alexis Rockman** shows a world above and below the water line; the atmosphere is sultry, sinister and tropical.

Laurent Delaye Gallery, 22 Barrett Street, London W1 (0171-629 5905), until May 24.

SACHA CRADDOCK

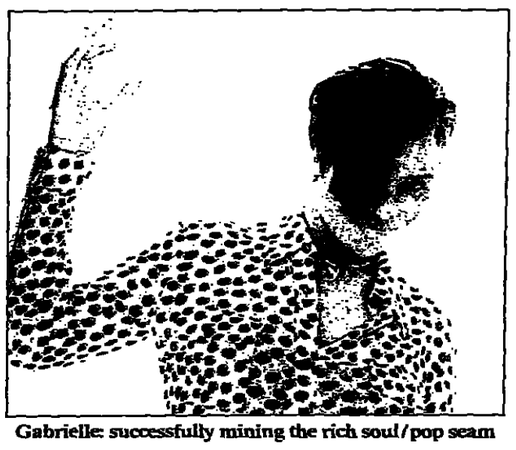
Much too late the heroine

With a brace of hit singles, a platinum-selling album and numerous awards to her credit (including a Brit for Best Female Artist), Gabrielle is one of the most successful of the British singers operating on the soul/pop interface.

Strangely, Gabrielle did not make her entrance until after the nine-piece band had warmed up with a largely instrumental funk work-out, thus eschewing the first rule of showbiz: always make a strong first impression. When she did appear, elegantly clad in a long black dress and matching jacket and shades, it was full speed ahead into a set that comprised much of her second, eponymous album.

I Live in Hope and *Baby, I've Changed* reveal Gabrielle's knack for combining the emotive phrasing of seminal Motown soul with the musical accoutrements of the contemporary pop ballad. The effect is that the songs walk a precarious tightrope between the profound and the bland.

Gabrielle's deep, smoky voice is just the right mix of knowing world-weariness and smoochy sensuality but it is at its most poignant during *Alone*, when Gabrielle's mournful tones are accompanied by a sole acoustic guitar.



Gabrielle: successfully mining the rich soul/pop seam

POP CONCERT

Gabrielle
Olympia, Dublin

Most of the time, however, there is a small army of musicians and backing singers on stage who, though slick and highly competent, seem to coast through the show in third gear, leaving the predominantly female crowd relatively subdued.

There was only widespread dancing in the seats during the encore, when Gabrielle sang her three most popular hits, the Bacharach/David classic *Walk on By*, *Give Me a Little More Time* and *Dreams*.

To return to showbiz tactics for a moment, Gabrielle would have been better advised to play one of these trump cards earlier in the show instead of lumping them together at the end, when the game was all but lost.

NICK KELLY

Private eye firmly in the public ear

These days, Walter Moseley is less a writer of detective stories than an American icon. **Hettie Judah** reports

Ten years ago, Walter Moseley paid his rent by programming computers. One day, he broke out of program code and typed: "On hot, sticky days in Southern Louisiana the fire ants swarm." With that, Moseley became a writer.

Last week Moseley was fielding questions from an audience at the NFT. He was mesmerising to watch: eloquent, wise, witty and self-effacing. His woebegone patriarch's face could travel from emphatic concern to an ironic "Yes, Miss Daisy" in seconds. It was like watching Moses doing stand-up comedy.

In the intervening decade, Moseley has written nine novels, a couple of screenplays and been heralded as the hottest crime writer of his generation and a major voice in Afro-American fiction. On the 1992 campaign trail, Bill Clinton flashed Moseley's novels like badges of credibility. Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins, Moseley's reluctant hero, is officially the President's favourite detective.

Moseley's NFT appearance coincided with the publication of *Gone Fishin'*, a novel featuring Rawlins and his psychopathic sidekick, Mouse, in pre-Second World War Texas. The novel is as fecund and bizarre as the bayou that spawned it, explaining the deep bond between the gentle Everyman Easy and the murderous Mouse. Far from being a derivative "prequel", this was the original Rawlins novel, written in 1988, shortly after his computer-programming epiphany. Asked why *Gone Fishin'* had to wait nine years for publication, Moseley joked that the book was written "PTM — pre-Teri Macmillan".

A day later, Moseley eases back on a sofa and lodges a can of Coke in the crook of his knee. I ask him whether Macmillan's blockbuster, *Waiting to Exhale*, really made such a difference to black authors. "She broke a barrier for black writers," he says. "A black audience bought the book en masse; it identified with the book and would buy more books. She opened up the market, or pointed out a market that was already there."

Unlike Macmillan's comfortable middle-class world, *Gone Fishin'* lingers long on the visceral. It is soaked in voodoo, fish guts, patricide, bloated toads and a grotesque scene with sausage fat. Moseley freely admits that he never holds back on physical description. "For poor blacks living in the deep South, violence is a way of life. You don't have much, but the little bit you have, you have to protect."



Walter Moseley, begetter of cult hero Easy Rawlins

Moseley's written language is exquisitely observed: a rich, accepting dialect. "Simple language is dangerous language," he says. "Language that tells the truth, that you can understand, is dangerous; language that is flowery and obfuscated and removed into some kind of scholarliness is not taking any risks."

For all his determined realism, this is not Moseley's own language, and the experiences he details are those of a generation before him. "I lived in a neighbourhood in Los Angeles where most of the people had come from the deep South. When I was a child the stories I heard were from the deep South; obviously those are the stories that I would first start writing."

Eventually Moseley brought the characters of the unpublished *Gone Fishin'* forward to 1948, following the black migration from the South to the jazz-soaked, crime-ridden streets of Los Angeles. The result was *Devil in a Blue Dress*, recently made into a film as excellent as the book. It, and its successors, were published as detective fiction, but the problem-solving genre is used almost as an excuse to tackle problem issues: McCarthyism, rape within marriage, child prostitution . . . He has also founded Black Genius, a panel of 14 speakers including himself and the film director Spike Lee, which discusses everyday problems with local audiences — first in New York, but soon across the country.

His status in America is now such that a walk-on part in his favourite television sitcom has been discussed. His growing potency as a black icon is apparent. Does he not feel crushed by responsibility? "I remember my father — who was no Republican — saying: 'There's one thing I liked about Eisenhower: he went to work at nine, he worked until five, and after that he went home. If you are the President, that's a hard job. You can't get exhausted, you can't get overly tired, because you might push the wrong button.' I think that's how I feel; if I'm any kind of role model, I'm the one who is reasonable, who doesn't take on too much."

But hold on a minute: Moseley's modern Socratic dialogues *Always Outnumbered, Always Outgunned* are published in October. Last week he finished a science-fiction novel, and the next Easy Rawlins mystery, *Bad Boy Bobby Brown*, is on its way. Then there's movies, plays, his Black Genius road show . . . does the man America listens to listen to himself?

● *Gone Fishin' is published by Serpent's Tail*





■ CHOICE 1

Cheek by Jowl stages Tennessee Williams's rare *Out Cry*

VENUE: Now in preview at the Lyric, Hammersmith



■ CHOICE 2

Curtain up on *The Admirable Crichton*, staged by Michael Rudman

VENUE: Chichester Festival, from tonight

THE TIMES

ARTS



■ CHOICE 3

Tommy Cooper's spirit is evoked in the play *Frankie and Tommy*

VENUE: Opens tonight, Watford Palace



■ FILM

The master restored: Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo* comes up fresh in a new print

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Macey

The London premiere of *Covering Ground* by Shapiro & Smith — an exploration of the camaraderie and physicality of the Phoenix Dancers — concludes the programme **Queen Elizabeth Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm.

ELSEWHERE

CHICHESTER The summer season begins with the tropical island setting of J M Barrie's **The Admirable Crichton**, where Ian McShane's perfect butler and Michael Denison's noble earl find the needs of survival alter social precedence Michael Rudman directs **Festival**, Oaklands Park (01243 781312) Opens tonight, 7.30pm Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm, some Suns at 3pm, in rep

WATFORD Christopher Brand plays Tommy Cooper in **Frankie and Tommy** by Garry Lyons, with Ben Fox as Frankie the author's father Based on the true account of Cooper's ill-fated comedy double-act, in Egypt 1946 Directed by Peter Rowe and first seen at the Liverpool Everyman. **Palace**, Clarendon Road (01923 225671) Opens tonight, 7.45pm Then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm; mats Wed (April 30), 2.30pm, and Sat (April 26, May 10), 3pm Until May 10

WORTHING, DGM Productions Ltd presents an all-star cast in Ayckbourn's comedy, **Absent Friends**: Shirley Anne Field, Christopher Strauli, Peter Blake, Shirin Taylor, Linda Davidson and David Janson, who also directs **Connaught**, Union Place (01903 235333). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 2pm

LONDON GALLERIES

Art Connoisseur: Art in Two and Three Dimensions: Painting — Hermione Thornton Lofthouse, Sculpture — Wendy Dale (0171-352 6744) . . **Association of Photographers**, AOP/Kodak Student Awards (0171-608 1445) **British Museum**: Ancient Faces: Mummy Portraits from Roman Egypt (0171-636 1555) . . **Cadogan Contemporary**: Michele David and Christopher Wood (0171-581 5451) **Commercial**: Clement Page (0171-247 9747) **Gallery 27**: Evidence, Recent Jazz Paintings by John Bull (0171-437 2812) . . **National**: London's Monets (0171-747 2885) . . **Portal**: Reg Pepper: Paintings of French Rural Life (0171-493 0706) **Royal Over-Seas League**, Stuart Robertson (0171-408 0214) . . **Tate**: Hogarth the Painter (0171-887 8000)

Hitch from a hodgepodge

The re-release of *Vertigo* is a triumph of the film restorer's art, W. Stephen Gilbert reports





James Katz (left) and Robert Harris, who have reconstructed the *Vertigo* Alfred Hitchcock filmed, but never saw

It is a measure of the genius of Alfred Hitchcock that so many of his movies are hailed as his masterpiece. *The 39 Steps*, *The Lady Vanishes*, *Rebecca*, *Strangers on a Train*, *Rear Window*, *North by Northwest*, *Psycho* and *The Birds* are widely touted; a dozen more can lay claim to the palm.

But for anyone who relishes the tradition of rapture and delirium in Hollywood filmmaking, his *pièce de résistance* is that haunting, dreamlike melodrama of 1958, *Vertigo*. The film's switchback reputation and its status as a quondam "lost movie" are entirely at one with its fiercely debated merits.

The movie is set in the properly vertiginous city of San Francisco. Scottie Ferguson is retired from the police when afflicted by vertigo after seeing a colleague fall to his death. An old acquaintance enlists Ferguson's help to tail his wife, who seems to be possessed by an Hispanic ancestor. The pursuit becomes obsessive, all the more so once Ferguson has stopped Madeleine drowning herself. But his vertigo prevents him from saving her when she leaps from a Spanish mission tower.

Driven deeper into illness, Ferguson meets an office clerk who is strikingly like his dead love. He inveigles himself into Judy's regard and gradually persuades her to make herself over into a simulacrum of Madeleine. Unwittingly, she betrays the set-up into which Ferguson has blundered and, in recreating the staged suicide, he precipitates the exorcism of the ghost.

Films exploring identity and duality existed before, but those proliferating since owe a vast debt to *Vertigo*, none more explicitly than the Brian De Palma obeisance, *Obsession*, and Mel Brooks's Hitch spoof, *High Anxiety*.

But the film's most pervasive single influence has been a camera trick, the simultaneous forward zoom and reverse track Hitchcock devised with cinematographer Robert Burks to convey the disorientating effect of vertigo. This device, now the standard method of signalling panic or fear, has recurred in seemingly every other Hollywood movie from *Jaws* to *Get Shorty*: it even turned up in Dennis Potter's *Karaoke*.

Vertigo itself fell. For some years, a group of Hitchcock movies for Paramount dropped out of circulation. Londoners did get a chance to see them by hearing on the grapevine that the cavernous old Scala cinema at King's Cross was having an occasional illicit screening. The tale was that Hitchcock himself had wilfully decreed that the prints be suppressed.

The truth is necessarily shabbier. They were junked by Paramount. "We were looking for the three-stripe magnetic track for *Vertigo*," says James Katz, "and we dug out this memo dated April 1967 confirming the destruction of the track. At once we knew that the same had happened to *Rear Window*, *The Man Who Knew Too Much* and *The Trouble with Harry*."

"We also found that this was not a decision made by Hitchcock," adds Robert Harris. "It was made by a lawyer with no film background who didn't know what he was suggesting when he said 'junk it'."

Harris and Katz, whose restorations include *Spartacus*, *My Fair Lady* and *Lawrence of Arabia*, then spent 36 months bringing the *Vertigo* negative to its full glory.

"It really wasn't until the Japanese began buying into the American studios and asking what was in the library that everybody started to get diligent," Katz says. "Studios that acquired libraries — as Universal did Paramount's — were at least aware of the value."

> 'We create a new negative from different things'

Restoring sound is just one of the tasks. The track of Bernard Herrmann's evocative music turned up in a Paramount vault. "Interestingly enough, that was recorded in London," says Katz, "because of the musicians' strike in 1958. After one day the London musicians sympathised with the American unions and they had to finish the recording in Vienna." The London material was in stereo, the Viennese mono, but the score is now remastered as full stereo.

Meanwhile, the aspect ratio has undergone dramatic change. The current *Vertigo* prints are in the convenient dimension known as Academy, which sits snugly in the television frame. But *Vertigo* was shot in Paramount's short-lived process called VistaVision, which used standard 35mm film to achieve a wide-screen effect. It was introduced on *White Christmas*, but the exhibitors balked at the requirement to install new projectors, and the handful of movies shot in VistaVision were generally seen reduction-printed to Academy, but with no loss of frame. The one benefit to audiences was a sharper picture.

For *Vertigo*, Katz and Harris have created a format they call SuperVistaVision 70. "Rather than reduction-printing it," says Harris, "we've done a field enlargement of probably less than 10 per cent to fill the 70mm frame vertically, and then matted the sides to a standard wide-screen dimension." Hitchcock, Katz observes, never saw the film in this way.

Half a reel of work-in-progress was shown at the San Francisco Film Festival a year ago, and the first screening of the full fruit of Harris and Katz's long labour was at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York last October. "It's easier and quicker to make a new movie than to restore an old one," Katz says with feeling.

A criticism the movie originally attracted concerned its bleak end. Harris and Katz have turned up a discarded pay-off sequence marking the apprehension of the villain. "We added that to the laser-disc version, out of deference to Hitchcock," Katz says. "His family gave us permission because we all felt that the laser-disc is the definitive record of the movie. But it's separate from the film. It was made for censorship reasons, and we've made that clear."

He underlines the integrity of the work. "The word 'restoration' is bandied about as a marketing term when people are just making prints off old negatives." "What we do", Harris interjects, "is create a new 65mm negative that's all cut together from different things. When it's projected on the screen you won't be able to tell. That's the trick."

● Vertigo *is re-released on Friday*

LONDON

L'ELISIR D'AMORE Tickets are scarce for John Copley's production for the Royal Opera of Donizetti's enduring comedy Jose Bros and Bruno Pola make their role debuts as, respectively, Nemorino and Dulcamara Angela Gheorghiu sings the role of Adina, with Deborah York as Giannetta and Natale de Carolis as Belcore Sung in Italian **Royal Opera House** Covent Garden WC2 (0171-304 4000) Tonight, 7.30pm Then April 26 (7pm), 29, May 2, 6 and 9, 7.30pm

OUT CRY Jason Merrells and Sara Stewart play actor and actress in Tennessee Williams's rarity, originally known as *The Two Character Play* Two thespians abandoned by their colleagues, decide the show must go on Timothy Walker directs for Cheek by Jowl **Lyric**, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Previews tonight, 7.30pm Opens tomorrow, 7pm Mon (except May 5) to Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm Until May 17

PHOENIX DANCE COMPANY The cast of 12 dancers celebrate their 15th anniversary with the performance of three pieces *White Picket Fence*, with choreography by Darshan Singh Bhuller, explores the superficiality of American domestic bliss Rodin's sculpture is the inspiration for Pamela L Johnson's *Eve's Reflection*, performed to live soprano saxophone

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **ANIMAL FARM** Northern Stage's vigorous adaptation of Orwell's popular fable plays a short season in London before its international tour **Young Vic** 66 The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Tue and Thurs 2pm Until May 3

■ **THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE** The Olivier is transformed into a "theatre in the round" for Simon McBurney's production of Brecht's last important work. Juliet Stevenson plays Grusha, with McBurney as the ingenious judge Azdak. **National (Olivier)**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Thurs and Sat 2pm In rep

☐ **CIGARETTES AND CHOCOLATE** An affair is pregnancy. Bach and a beg lady feature in this stage version of the award-winning radio play by Anthony Minghella **Man in the Moon**, 392 Jung's Road, SW3 (0171-351 2876) Tue-Sun, 8pm Until April 26

☐ **EAST IS EAST** Second West End showing for Ayub Khan-Din's enjoyable family drama, comic and serious, set in 1970s Salford where a Pakistani patriarch vainly tries to bring up his six children according to ancestral tradition **Royal Court Downstairs (Duke of York's)**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat, 3.30pm Until May 24

☐ **FRANKLY SCARLETT** Farcical comedy about the making of that film about Miss O'Hara Peter Polycarpou plays David O Selznick. Written by Peter Morris and Phillip George, and directed by George. **King's Head**, 115 Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916) Now previewing, 8pm Opens April 24, 7.30pm

☐ **THE GOODBYE GIRL** Gary Wilmot and Ann Crumb in the Harnisch/Zippel musical version of Neil Simon's play **Albery**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat 8.30pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm

◪ **THE HERBAL BED** Peter Whelan's fascinating play transfers from the Barbican: some cast changes but Teresa Banham continues to play Shakespeare's daughter, and Stephen Boxer her Puritan inquisitor **Duchess**, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm

☐ **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR** Michael MacLiammoir's celebrated tribute to Wilde movingly revived by Simon Callow, conveying the wit, the gravity, the distress **Savoy**, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **MASTER CLASS** Patti LuPone recreates her Broadway starring role playing Maria Callas in Terrence McNally's Tony Award-winning play Leonard Foglia directs See interview, page 39 **Queen's**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040) Now previewing, 8pm Opens May 6, 7pm Then Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

◪ **POPCORN** Ben Elton's blistering comedy about movie violence. A Tarantinoesque director gets his comeuppance when a couple of serial killers (Patrick O'Kane and Dena Davis) blame him for their misdeeds **Apollo**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 4pm

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) ◪ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) . . ◪ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) ◪ **Grease**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . . ◪ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ☐ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054), ☐ **The Woman in Black**, Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

THE ADDICTION (18) Quirky and compelling vampire tale from Abel Ferrara, with Lili Taylor **ICA Cinema** (0171-930 3647) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

BOX OF MOONLIGHT (15) Upright engineer unravels Winsome fable from Tom DiCillo, with John Turturro **ABC Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Mezzanine** ◪ (0181-315 4215) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

EVERYONE SAYS I LOVE YOU (12) New York neuroses set to music by Woody Allen. Beguiling, but thin. With Alan Alda and Julia Roberts **Barbican** (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Gate Notting Hill** (0171-727 4043) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Haymarket** (0181-315 4212) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

THE FUNERAL (18) Powerful and brooding racketeering drama, with Christopher Walken and Christopher Penn Director, Abel Ferrara. **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **METRO** (18) Routine cop saga, with Eddie Murphy and Michael Rapaport. Director, Thomas Carter **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4215) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990)

◆ **THE SAINT** (12) Botched revival of Leslie Charteris's gentleman thief, played by Val Kilmer With Elisabeth Shue Director, Phillip Noyce. **Odeon Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990)

CURRENT

◆ **DANTE'S PEAK** (12) Erupting volcano threatens Pierce Brosnan and Linda Hamilton Silly script, good effects **Empire** (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **JERRY MAGUIRE** (15) A sports PR agent gets a conscience Enjoyable, if overlong comedy, with Oscar-nominated Tom Cruise **Empire** (0990 888990) **Plaza** ◪ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **THE PEOPLE VS LARRY FLYNT** (18) Rollercoaster ride through the life and court cases of the millionaire pornographer, played by Woody Harrelson. With Courtney Love Director, Milos Forman **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

A SELF-MADE HERO (15) Jacques Audiard's captivating film about a bogus Resistance hero in the Second World War, with Matthieu Kassovitz **ABCs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **STAR WARS** (U) The movie milestone returns, with four extra minutes With Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Alec Guinness; director, George Lucas **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA** Tonight 7.30 **MADAM BUTTERFLY** Tomor 6.00 **THE DAMNATION OF FAUST**

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Office & Standby info Tickets available on the day **The Royal Opera** Tonight (First Night), Sat 7.00 **L'ELISIR D'AMORE** Thur, Mon 7.30 **OTELLO** **The Royal Ballet** Tomor 7.30 (Last Night) **ROMEO AND JULIET** Fri 7.30 **ANASTASIA**

SADLER'S WELLS at the Peacock Theatre (0171) 314 8800 **BALLET COMUNIDAD DE MADRID** **Director Victor Ullate** First UK performances Classical precision. Spanish inspiration Until 3 May 8pm ← Sat mats 3pm

THEATRES

ADELPHI **Legendary Entertainer** JERRY LEWIS in DAMN YANKEES A helluva musical with heart' Red price previs from 29 May Opens 4 June 0171 413 1777 (24hrs low bkg fee) Grps 0800 614903 0171 930 3000 (no fee)

ALBERY THEATRE BO & cc 0171 369 1730 cc 344 4444. (No fees) Grps 413 3321, 312 5069 **GARY WILMOT** **ANN CRUMB** in THE GOODBYE GIRL A New Musical Book by Neil Simon, Music by Marvin Hamlisch, Lyrics by Don Black Evgs Mon-Fri 8pm Wed Mat 3pm, Sats 5 & 8.30pm.

APOLLO 24hr cc 0171 494 5070 cc 0171 344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454 **BEN ELTON'S** POPCORN **"Fast, funny and downright sexy"** Evening Standard **"A bloody good night out."** F.T Mon-Sat 8.00pm Mats Wed 3.00pm Sat 4.00pm

THEATRES

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6007/ 420 0000 (24 hrs/no bkg fee) Groups 0171 416 6075 Eves 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mats 3pm **"THE BEST ORIGINAL DRAMA IN TOWN...STUNNINGLY BRILLIANT** Herald Tribune **MICHAEL GAMBON** **ALEC McCOWEN** **"TOWERING PERFORMANCES"** The Evening Standard TOM & CLEM a new play by **STEPHEN CHURCHETT** Directed by **RICHARD WILSON** **"HIGHLY ENJOYABLE"** D Tel **"WONDERFULLY COMIC"** The Spectator

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321 **Andrew Lloyd Webber's** STARLIGHT EXPRESS **THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH** White knuckle runs 19 45 daily Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12 50

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

CAMBRIDGE 494 5080/416 6060 344 4444/420 0000 (+ bkg fee) Groups 494 5454 416 6075/413 3321/436 5588 GREASE **Starring SHANE RICHIE** **"A Monster Hit"** D.Mirror Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mat 3pm **GREASE NOW BKG INTO 1998!**

DOMINION 0171 656 1885/0990 204020/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6096/312 1997/0800 614903 **The Magic comes alive on stage DISNEY'S** BEAUTY AND THE BEAST **A NEW MUSICAL** **"THE MOST LAVISH, OPULENT, EYE-POPPING SHOW EVER!"** New York Newsday Prevs from Apr 29 now booking

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444 **BEST COMEDY** Laurence Olivier Award Nominee REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged)** All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes **"Hilarious"** Times Mats Thur at 3, Sat at 5 Sun at 4, Eves at 8pm **THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged)** Tuesday at 8pm **London's Longest Running Comedy Hit**

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000 MISS SAIGON **"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME"** **NOW IN ITS 8TH EXTRAORDINARY YEAR!** Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm **Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS 0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)**

DUCHESS BO/cc 0171 494 5075 (no bkg fee) cc 0171 344 4444/ 420 0000 (bkg fee) **Royal Shakespeare Company** THE HERBAL BED By Peter Whelan "A love story, a courtroom drama and a moral thriller **ONE OF THE BEST NEW PLAYS THE RSC HAS PRODUCED"** S.Times Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 **FOR 11 WEEKS ONLY**

To advertise in this section please call the Entertainments team on: 0171 680 6222 or fax 0171 481 9313

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/312 8033 **EWAN HOOPER** **JAMES SIMMONS** **Susan Hill's** THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatrat **"The most thrilling and chilling play for years"** D Mail **NOW IN ITS 8th YEAR** Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm **Running time 2hrs**

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/312 1990 (no bkg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454 **WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS** **The Royal National Theatre Production** **PIP DONAGHY** **SUZANNE BERTISH** **BARRY STANTON** JB Priestley's AN INSPECTOR CALLS **"THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN"** D Mail **"TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA"** D Tel Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15, Wed mat 2.30

HAYMARKET 930 8800 (no bkg fee) 344 4444/420 0000 (with bkg fee) Eves 8 Mats Thur 3 & Sat 5 **Royal Exchange Theatre Co.** **OSCAR WILDE'S CLASSIC COMEDY** LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN **"IRRESISTIBLY GLAMOROUS"** **"DON'T MISS IT"** Obs

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588 **ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL** THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by HAROLD PRINCE **NOW BKG TO DEC 97** Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00. Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LABATT'S APOLLO, 0171 416 6050/420 0000/344 4444 (fee) 416 6075/436 5588 (grps, fee) CLIFF RICHARD in HEATHCLIFF **'Spectacular, stunning'** D.Mail Some seats avail in Apr/May Mon - Sat 8pm

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 494 5450/413 3321 **LAST 3 WEEKS TO SEE ROBERT LINDSAY** **BEST ACTOR IN A MUSICAL** **Laurence Olivier Awards** **"ROBERT LINDSAY'S FAGIN IS FULL OF CHARM, WARMTH & GLEEFUL CRIMINALITY."** D Exp **BARRY HUMPHRIES RETURNS TO THE ROLE OF FAGIN FROM 12 MAY** OLIVER! **3RD IRREPRESSIBLE YEAR** **'LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE'** S Times Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 **SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS**

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel 0171 680 6222 or fax 0171 481 9313

LYCEUM cc 0171 656 1806 0990 500 800/420 0000/344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6076 **TIM RICE & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S** JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR **"Sends Shivers Racing Down The Spine"** D Telegraph Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3 (no bkg fee for personal callers at the Lyceum box office 10am-8pm). £15 tickets for students avail Mon-Thu are bookable in advance. **Now booking to September** Some seats avail at door Mon - Thu

LYRIC Shaftesbury Ave 0171 494 5045 (cc bkg fee)/344 4444 (bkg fee) Eves 7.45, Wed & Sat mats 3pm SIAN PHILLIPS simply brilliant as **PAM GEMS'** MARLENE Directed by **SEAN MATHIAS**

LYRIC THEATRE HAMMERSMITH 0181 741 2311 CHEEK BY JOWL OUT CRY by Tennessee Williams Eves 7.30 Sat mat 2.30 **Ltd Season Must End 17 May**

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252 Grps 0171 620 0741, 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000 Please allow extra journey/parking time because of major roadworks. **OLIVIER** Tom t, Tomor 7.15 **THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE** by Bertolt Brecht in a new version by Frank McGuinness. **LYTTELTON** Today 2.15 & 7.30 **THE HOMECOMING** Harold Pinter Tomor 7.30 **LADY IN THE DARK** a musical play by Moss Hart with lyrics by Ira Gershwin and music by Kurt Weill **Ton't 6.00 PLATFORM: GILLIAN SLOVO. COTTESLOE** Ton't 7.30 Tomor 2/30 & 7.30 **THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN** a new play by Martin McDonagh

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT Bars open at 6.45 **LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.**

OLD VIC 0171 928 7616 24hrs 420 0000 (no bkg fee) The Peter Hall Company **7 days a week** **WASTE** by **Harley Granville Barker** **"Sulphorous, gripping production gets Hall's first season off to a blazing start"** S Times Ton't, Fri & Sat 7.30pm Thur mat 2.30pm **CLOUD NINE** by **Caryl Churchill** **"Disgracefully funny"** D Mail Tomor & Thur 7.30pm Sat mat 2.30pm **HURLYBURLY** by **David Rabe** **"It is worth crawling over broken glass to see it"** Kaleidoscope **Last perf May 2 at 7.30pm** **The Seagull** by **Anton Chekhov** English version by Tom Stoppard Apr 28 & 29 at 7.30pm May 3 at 2.30pm & 7.30pm Tickets £10 - £19

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 413 3311 **THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL** LES MISERABLES **NOW IN ITS 12TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR** Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) BEST MUSICAL Olivier/Drama Awards Plays & Players/Mor Novello Awards **WILLY RUSSELL'S** BLOOD BROTHERS **...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval"** D Mail **10TH TRIUMPHANT YEAR** Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3pm Sat 4pm **NOW BOOKING UNTIL JAN'98**

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 344 4444/420 0000 (24 hrs) Eves 8, Mats Wed 3 & Sat 5 **THE PETER HALL COMPANY** **PETER BOWLES** **CARMEN SILVERA** **HENRY McGEE** **ERIC SYKES** in Molière's hilarious comedy THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES **"POSITIVELY GLITTERING... THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS"** D Mail **LAST WEEK AT PICCADILLY. TRANSFERS TO COMEDY**

PICCADILLY THEATRE 0171 369 1734/cc 0171 344 4444 **NELL DUNN'S COMEDY** STEAMING Previews from May 1 MAY 1 ONLY ALL TKTS £10

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 cc 344 4444 Grps 420 0200 **WINNER BEST CHOREOGRAPHER** BEST NEW MUSICAL **LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARDS** **"REAL POWER & PASSION A BLOCKBUSTER"** D Tel **"A BIG MAGNIFICENT EPIC MUSICAL. A GREAT EVENING OUT"** S Times MARTIN GUERRE **BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG'S "MUSICAL MASTERPIECE"** Int Her Trib Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00 **NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998**

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5987 First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444 Grps 420 0200 freephone 0800 614903 **"HOT FROM BROADWAY, AND I MEAN SMOKIN'. ENOUGH ENERGY TO ELECTRIFY A CITY."** D Mail **GRAMMY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL** SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER Directed by Jerry Zaks **"AMERICAN GRAFFITI MEETS WEST SIDE STORY"** E Std Mon-Sat 8pm, Thu & Sat Mats 3pm **REDUCED PRICE THURS MAT NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998**

QUEENS Bo cc 0171 494 5040 cc 344 4444 Grps 494 5454 PATTI LuPONE **IN** MASTER CLASS **by TERRENCE McNALLY** **Now Previewing Opens 6 May** Tue-Sat 8pm Wed & Sat Mats 3pm

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY **LONDON** (0171 494 5075) DUCHESS THEATRE. **THE HERBAL BED** Ton t 7.30 **STRATFORD** (01789 295623/ cc 0171 413 1452) **RSC STOPOVER** for details 01789 414999 **RST MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** Ton't 7.30 **SWAN: HENRY VIII** Ton't 7.30 **TOP: EVERYMAN** Ton't 7.30

ROYAL COURT 0171 565 5000 cc 420 0100 (24hrs) Downstairs (Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane) **EAST IS EAST** by **Ayub Khan-Din**, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat Mat 3.30pm Upstairs (Ambassadors, West St) **BAILEGANGAIRE** by **Tom Murphy**, Mon-Sat 7.15, Sat Mat from 3 May 3.00 (Press night tomorrow, 7.00)

SAVOY BO/cc 0171 836 8888 cc 420 0000 (no bkg fee) Grps 420 0200 **"OSCAR NOMINATED"** Ind SIMON CALLOW **"Is exemplary: unsentimental, lucid, lively, absorbing"** Times **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR** **The Wit, Triumph & Tragedy of Oscar Wilde** by **Michael mac Liammoir** **"scrupulous, intelligent, compassionate & funny...ONE OF THE MOST ENJOYABLE SERIOUS ENTERTAINMENTS IN LONDON"** Sunday Times **"witty, beautiful, compelling stuff"** F.T, Eves 8pm Mats Wed & Sat 3pm LIMITED SEASON TO 10 MAY

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 436 5588 "BUDDY" **The Buddy Holly Story** **"BRILLIANT"** Sun "BUDDY" **"WONDERFUL STUFF"** Sun Tel "BUDDY" Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sats 5.00 & 8.30 Sundays 4.00 ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF **8th ELECTRIFYING YEAR** Now booking 'till October 4

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 Eves 8, Tue 2.45, Sat 5 & 8 AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP **45th YEAR**

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 (no bkg fee) cc 420 0000 (bkg fee) **"FRESH, BRAVE & FUNNY"** Telegraph **The New Irish Hit Comedy!** WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF "HRT" by Marie Jones **"THE SPIRIT OF SHIRLEY VALENTINE LIVES ON"** Gdn Mon-Sat at 7.45pm, Thur & Sat at 3pm **MUST END 3 MAY**

VICTORIA PALACE 0171 834 1317 In a world of privilege a love that broke all the rules ALWAYS **A NEW MUSICAL** Performances From 20 May Mon-Sat at 7.30pm Wed-Sat mats at 3.00pm

WYNDHAMS 369 1736/344 4444 **BEST COMEDY** **Eve Standard Awards** **BEST COMEDY** **Laurence Olivier Awards** "ART" A new play by Yasmina Reza Trans. by Christopher Hampton **"Fly, swim or skate just to see it"** New York Times Eves 8 Mats Wed 3 & Sat 5

To advertise in The Times theatre listings please call our entertainments team on: 0171 481 1982 or fax: 0171 481 9313.

TO ADVERTISE CALL 0171 680 6111

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

FAX: 0171 782 7930

BUSINESS FOR SALE

ABC Employment Agency. City Based. Temp/Perm financial sector. T/o £654K. Net up to £120K. Co sale Price £215,000+. Avondale 01737 770400.

ABC Healthcare Agency Franchise. T/o Yr 1 £156K, Yr 2 £440K, GP 22.2%. Locate UK wide. Investment £7,000 + working capital. Avondale 01737 770400.

ABC Health & Safety prod W'Sale. SW England. Managed busn. Excellent profits. T/o £1m1+. Price £595K. Avondale 01275 810997.

ABC Investment Property. Superb Antiques Centre Ideal S.East location. Rental income c. £67,000 pa. P'hold £425K. Avondale 01737 766601.

ABC National Cleaning Services Co. Bristol. Blue Chip client base. ISO 9002. T/o £1.6mi. Price £650K. Avondale 01275 810997.

ABC Paints & Coatings Contractors & Supplies. Wholesale & Retail. T/o £1.336K pa. Herts. L'hold Price £120K+SAV. Avondale 01280 850264.

ABC Telecoms Instal/Maint. ISO 9002. Essex. T/o £400km Price £279k. Avondale 01787 311607.

ABC The simple way to buy or sell a business. List of over 800+ business. Avondale 0345 573835.

AN Established Midlands electrical / control engineering division for sale. This division is an established manufacturer of custom built switch gear - MCC's and control panels with supporting engineering and application control systems. Established clientel with a full order book. Viewing recommended. Tel: 0181 841 9901.

EXETER Monthly advertising publication est. 1984, good profits, order book, goodwill. Average t/o £28,000 p/t from home. Higher t/o potential. £9,000 for quick sale. Please Reply to Box No 4452

WALE Of Clwyd residential home for 19. Planning permission for 27. Gardens & c/park r/o £175k details fax 01745 857 383

VENDING Operator business. West Midlands based. 100 snack, can and hot drinks machines sited. Mostly owned outright. T/o last year £300k. Owner 65 wishes to retire. Please Reply to Box No 4449

VINEYARD. Carcassonne, France. Maison de maitre + 3 gites & buildings. 40 hectares, river. 4.5acf. Tel: 0181 905 3065

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

JERSEY BASED PROFESSIONAL GAMBLER

With unsurpassed sources in the best gambling odds., Requires approx 12 discreet clients to participate in several well laid out coups. No money up front, you only pay as we win, a betting bank of £1,000 is required which you control.

Phone All day Sunday and Monday Jersey (01534 490 760) or (0402 651 299)

LIVE WIRES!

British Safety Associates require agents in all areas to perform inspection and remedial work. Full training given. Would suit handymen and competent electricians. An exclusive area should generate at least £35k p.a. Management skills could earn much more.

Tel: John on 01234 - 720831.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A-A-Amazing! £1500 a week realty is feasible. Free report shows how.Tel: 01270 250822 24Hrs.

ABANDON Searching. This simple home based business works. £2500+pm p/ft. Call 0181 338 9801 (24hrs)

ABANDON your search. £2K - £5K+ week. F/part time from home. 01273 401256 (24hrs)

ABOUT Time to secure your future? £2k-£5k+ p.m. part/f time, from home. Proven worldwide 01803 712411 (24 hr)

ABSOLUTELY Genuine! Full time income for part time hours. Earn £50k p.a. from home. Call 01253 882642 (24 hours)

ABSURDLEY Simple a proven home based business p/full time. £500-£6,000 per month call 01582 820 690. 24 Hrs.

A New invention proven to cut electricity costs by up to 40%. Manufacturer seeks local, national and overseas distributors for this top quality, high tech product with incredible consumer demand. Tel: 01872 223000 (fax: 264325) for information pack

AN International company, $Billion turnover, seeking entrepreneurs. Car programme, international travel, profit share. Fed up with no job security? Be your own boss. Potential £100,000 p.a. Phone/fax 01271 813560.

A Telephone entertainment business can make you money! £100k plus earnings achievable UK based. Not 00 or premium rate earn money weekly. We pay you weekly. Business opportunities from £3500 to £11996 inc vat. Unique business opportunity from ICS for a brochure or speak to a consultant Freephone 0800 074 0212

BEST Products, Best System, Best Organisation, Best Final Very Serious Income. Free Booklet. Call 01426 944204 (24 hrs).

BRAND New franchise in computers. No exp needed for this £100K potential fully marketed opp. Supplies & full training included for under £10K. Tel: 0121 244 3233

DTI Award winning, fast growing UK company seeks partners with professional sales or training background to join successful, high grade team providing key leadership, team building, personal skills courses in education and corporate markets. Min £4k outlay. Call 01989 730432

HOUSES for sale. £10,000 Freehold. Re-sale value £20,000. Ideal for renting. Low outlay. High profits. High rent. Guaranteed tenancies. Full management. Hazlington Properties 0161 796 1411.

£364 EXTRA

Average weekly profits last 2 years

'The most enjoyable profit I've ever made.'

- *Just 1 hour on a Saturday*
- *No stock, no selling*
- *Operate anywhere*
- *Not MLM or a franchise*
- *Capital required £3,995*

01452 532 415

24 hrs, 7 days

Prime Analysis (Europe) Limited

HAVE YOU AN IDEA OR INVENTION? ...then America's leading product development company is interested

INTERNATIONAL PRODUCT DESIGN

1 Harley Street, London W1N 1DA

0171•436•1127

PRIVATE DETECTIVE

For a comprehensive FREE info pack on BRAND NEW Home Study Course

☎01709 360166

or write to: Shrewbrow P.L. (TT) 18 Claire Court, Ravenarth Road, Rotherham S60 1RU

INSIDER SECRETS REVEALED

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

INVESTOR or manufacturer required to aid in the development of a revolutionary toilet with patent granted. A similar more expensive product is already sweeping America and Japan. I am currently seeking either an established manufacturer or someone with the expertise and funds available to get this product successfully on to the market. Interested parties should telephone me on 01226 384510 Quoting reference Combifresh

INVESTORS required joint mining operations. Fax to 0181 676 0059 Att. Economic Development Officer

MLM Leaders - money talks - listen to this. Please Freephone: 0800 856 2360

NETWORKERS The most revolutionary and ingenious marketing plan ever! 01268 784 997

PROBABLY the most successful work from home business in Europe today. For free booklet Call 01426 949773.

SHARES & option trading made easier for information ring 0151 280 9090

STUCK Liquidations wish to buy Rateable Merchandise. Instant Payment. Fax Details to: 01204 853930.

UNHAPPY Networkers check this out 1st level 15% 2nd level 45% infinity bonus 4% to 15% fax is free copy of "the facts" tel: 01282 710916 or a 5 sheet fax-back from 0171 644 3148

VIDEO LASER DISKS. Collection of 750 disks. Asking US$14,000. Tel 001 561 745 2595. Fax 001 561 745 8845.

LOANS & INVESTMENT

ABANDON Your search guaranteed non status loans, mortgages, bridging, from 6.99% up to 90% value. No credit check - no income proof - no fees! Fone Drummond 0181 288 9949

A 7 Day completion guaranteed all mortgages & remortgages. No accounts required, adverse credit history welcome. No up front fees. 0151 236 2646.

ANY Purpose status mortgage and loans. Special non-status schemes, un-limited CCJ's and arrears accepted. No income checks, fast and confidential service on 0181 311 7475.

BRIDGING And short term property loans. Tel: 01803-875030.

BUSINESS Finance on competitive terms. Any amount considered. Bespoke packages with major lenders for re-financing, restructuring & start-ups. Proposals up to £10 million successfully transacted. Staddon House Ltd. Tel 07000 05 55 55 Fax 07000 06 66 66 (7 days)

GUARANTEED Loans. Clear all existing credit, replace with one convenient payment APR 12.4%. Freecall 0800 179 496

MONEY, Any purpose fast and reliable service 01291 425228 7 days per week

NEED a Mortgage? Been turned down elsewhere? Non-status mortgages / re mortgages. No credit checks or income proof required. Tel: 0181 406 0058 Finance By Design.

NON Status mortgages & loans + bridging & small development finance. Commercial / residential. Investment props, CCJ's, arrears, no income proof, no age limit. B.F.S. 01772 632591

PRINCIPAL Lenders offer non status short/long term loans. Immediate decisions. Chesterfield Securities 0181 905 7777

REMORTGAGES For applicants with financial problems. £15,100 minimum. Anglo Credit. 0800 102 302 anytime.

FAST NON STATUS PROPERTY FUNDING

SHORT - LONG TERM FACILITIES

£15,000 to £3,000,000

INVESTMENT - DEVELOPMENT. BRIDGING - CAPITAL RAISING etc.

NO UP FRONT FEES.

IMMEDIATE DECISIONS

PRINCIPAL LENDERS - EST. 33 YEARS

B.M. SAMUELS FINANCE GROUP PLC.

315 REGENTS PARK ROAD, LONDON, N3 1DP.

TEL. 0181 349 9090

FAX. 0181 349 9898

BUSINESS SERVICES

BANKRUPTCY Association of Great Britain and Ireland. Est. 1983. Tel: 01462 458701.

CALL Germany only 19p/min cat rat. 50% saving. Tel: 0800 279 0010

CHEQUES Cashed. A discreet and professional service. Positive proof of identity and entitlement essential. Cheques Freephone - 0800 43 55 55 or Dublin 00353 1677 3808.

COMPANY Credit ratings/ searches instantly by fax from £5. Directors info, accounts, international co. reports 0800 716 859 Fax: 01254 822221.

FREE Free free free. Ltd company own choice of name and fully registered. 0500 600 111

FREEPHONE 0800 numbers & 07000 personal numbers for the best deal call Marc at ICS 0800 074 0212

GENUINE Non status mortgages, remortgages for companies or individuals. 01903 261 999

GUERNSEY Consultancy now established in London can assist with your financial support and advice for your overseas activities. Michael Wilde & Company 0171 730 5446.

LIMITED Companies & Company Searches. Offshore Companies. Tel: 0171-252 3467 Fax: 0171-252 3096. JF Co Reg

LIMITED Companies £49 incl. Ready made or own name. Search/info & advice 0800 838057 Exemplar.

Make a big impression, use the best address in town

1 Northumberland Ave, Trafalgar Square or 10 Stratton Street, Mayfair, London W1.

Use our address, fax and telephone number to establish a professional base for your business.

Make the right impression with Regus Link.

Tel: (0171) 872 5500

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

WAREHOUSING & distribution facility to let 70,000sq ft of high quality warehousing inside latest 30ft eaves. Prime location adjacent to J22 M1 Leicester. Flexible terms. For details 01530 813385.

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

BOX No:- .....

c/o TIMES NEWSPAPERS P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST, LONDON, E1 9GA

DISTRIBUTORS & AGENTS

LEISURE Industry! Luxurious lifestyles obnoxious salaries! Sun Services 01925 820710

AUCTIONS

PITRUS 63-92/Mouton 45-92/DR-Conti 76-93. http://www.heidlandtourism.ch.gemstl.htm

BUSINESS SERVICES

DISCREET **SURVEILLANCE** EQUIPMENT ENDS UNCERTAINTY

Disloyalty can have catastrophic results. We provide discreet advice and a comprehensive range of amazing electronic products. Free catalogue on request.



0181-558 4226 Fax: 0181 558 1338

LORRAINE ELECTRONICS 716 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AW

PROTECTING YOUR BEST INTERESTS

LOANS & INVESTMENT

NEED A MORTGAGE / REMORTGAGE NO ACCOUNTS - CAN'T PROVE INCOME?

Help is at hand - We can do self certification

On loans from 15K up to 2 Million, rates from 5.99%.

Bridging funds also available

The London Mortgage Company Ltd are Principal Lenders

0171 738 0777

Your home is at risk if you do not keep up any loan that is secured against it

FRANCHISES

Q.M.LTD

THE MOST EXCITING FRANCHISE TYPE BUSINESS FOR THE NEW MILLENIUM in the LEADING EDGE of the C.C.T.V. MARKET

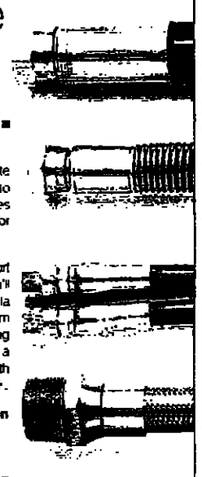
- EXCLUSIVE AREAS – only 100 in G.B. 25 SOLD in first six months !
- NO ROYALTY or MANAGEMENT FEES !
- SOPHISTICATED PRODUCTS that offer more the NECESSITY of our time
- DIRECT-SYSTEMS included in the purchase fee
- FULL INITIAL TRAINING in all aspects of Business & Product
- MAJOR HELP to find, establish & keep your staff
- ON GOING Market Support & Training
- QUALIFIED APPOINTMENTS SUPPLIED !

THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN IN EXCESS OF £50,000 per year, WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR! for an investment of £3000 + vat

Reach for your dream - Pick up the Phone - Say "I WANT TO KNOW MORE"

Phone 01392 272526 or 01392 493351

Lucrative outlets **for sale.**



Pirtek, the UK leader in on-site hose replacement needs to assign established franchises to entrepreneurs with senior managerial backgrounds

In return for investing time, effort and capital (approx. £70k), you'll get the best business formula around plus all the long term technical marketing and training support you need. Discover a business that's proven its worth in Australia, America and the UK.

Call our franchise director on 0181 749 6777 today.

PIRTEK home & amenities

Pirtek UK Ltd, 36 Acton Park Estate, The Vale, Acton, London W3 7QE

LOANS & INVESTMENT

ABANDON Your search guaranteed non status loans, mortgages, bridging, from 6.99% up to 90% value. No credit check - no income proof - no fees! Fone Drummond 0181 288 9949

ANY Purpose status mortgage and loans. Special non-status schemes, un-limited CCJ's and arrears accepted. No income checks, fast and confidential service on 0181 311 7475.

BRIDGING And short term property loans. Tel: 01803-875030.

BUSINESS Finance on competitive terms. Any amount considered. Bespoke packages with major lenders for re-financing, restructuring & start-ups. Proposals up to £10 million successfully transacted. Staddon House Ltd. Tel 07000 05 55 55 Fax 07000 06 66 66 (7 days)

GUARANTEED Loans. Clear all existing credit, replace with one convenient payment APR 12.4%. Freecall 0800 179 496

MONEY, Any purpose fast and reliable service 01291 425228 7 days per week

NEED a Mortgage? Been turned down elsewhere? Non-status mortgages / re mortgages. No credit checks or income proof required. Tel: 0181 406 0058 Finance By Design.

NON Status mortgages & loans + bridging & small development finance. Commercial / residential. Investment props, CCJ's, arrears, no income proof, no age limit. B.F.S. 01772 632591

PRINCIPAL Lenders offer non status short/long term loans. Immediate decisions. Chesterfield Securities 0181 905 7777

REMORTGAGES For applicants with financial problems. £15,100 minimum. Anglo Credit. 0800 102 302 anytime.

FAST NON STATUS PROPERTY FUNDING

SHORT - LONG TERM FACILITIES

£15,000 to £3,000,000

INVESTMENT - DEVELOPMENT. BRIDGING - CAPITAL RAISING etc.

NO UP FRONT FEES.

IMMEDIATE DECISIONS

PRINCIPAL LENDERS - EST. 33 YEARS

B.M. SAMUELS FINANCE GROUP PLC.

315 REGENTS PARK ROAD, LONDON, N3 1DP.

TEL. 0181 349 9090

FAX. 0151 349 9898

BUSINESS SERVICES

BANKRUPTCY Association of Great Britain and Ireland. Est. 1983. Tel: 01462 458701.

CALL Germany only 19p/min cat rat. 50% saving. Tel: 0800 279 0010

CHEQUES Cashed. A discreet and professional service. Positive proof of identity and entitlement essential. Cheques Freephone - 0800 43 55 55 or Dublin 00353 1677 3808.

COMPANY Credit ratings/ searches instantly by fax from £5. Directors info, accounts, international co. reports 0800 716 859 Fax: 01254 822221.

FREE Free free free. Ltd company own choice of name and fully registered. 0500 600 111

FREEPHONE 0800 numbers & 07000 personal numbers for the best deal call Marc at ICS 0800 074 0212

GENUINE Non status mortgages, remortgages for companies or individuals. 01903 261 999

GUERNSEY Consultancy now established in London can assist with your financial support and advice for your overseas activities. Michael Wilde & Company 0171 730 5446.

LIMITED Companies & Company Searches. Offshore Companies. Tel: 0171-252 3467 Fax: 0171-252 3096. JF Co Reg

LIMITED Companies £49 incl. Ready made or own name. Search/info & advice 0800 838057 Exemplar.

Make a big impression, use the best address in town

1 Northumberland Ave, Trafalgar Square or 10 Stratton Street, Mayfair, London W1.

Use our address, fax and telephone number to establish a professional base for your business.

Make the right impression with Regus Link.

Tel: (0171) 872 5500

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

WAREHOUSING & distribution facility to let 70,000sq ft of high quality warehousing inside latest 30ft eaves. Prime location adjacent to J22 M1 Leicester. Flexible terms. For details 01530 813385.

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

BOX No:- .....

c/o TIMES NEWSPAPERS P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST, LONDON, E1 9GA

WHOLESALERS

WALTER RUSSEL Stock Liquidators Offer Mountain Bikes- 50 for £2,800. Aquasseal & Associate Goods, £10,000 worth for £1,400. Maidcrop Merchandise, £9,600 worth for £1,400 Other Merchandise Available. Tele: 01204 853999.

PERSONAL NUMBERS

0800 THE TIMES (843 84637), 0800 HOOKER (4445537), 0800 FOXTONE, 0800 TVSHOP, 0800 GAMBLE, 0800 BEEFEATER, 0800 AAHOTEL, 0800 DUCATI, 0800 REVENUE, 0800 READERS, just call your number.

WHOLESALERS

FIRST TELECOM

DISPOSABLE TELEPHONE CARDS AVAILABLE NOW

DISCOUNT

WHOLESALERS - £10K — PAY = 25%

DISTRIBUTORS - £5K — PAY = 20%

RETAILERS - £500

0800 279 2474

AUCTIONS

AUCTIONS

IN THE MATTER OF INSOLVENCY BANKRUPTCY & REPOSSESIONS

SHERWOOD AUCTIONEERS INVITE:

Enrolment to our TELEPHONE BIDDING service. Acting on behalf of clients with immediate reasons to sell. Sherwood Auctioneers can offer a facility to give you the opportunity to bid for goods with massive reductions prior to receivership. Our information is carefully compiled in association with auctioneers nationwide. A vast range of products for sale will be available every month to you. e.g.

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	AVE(£)
70	Sony 28" T.V. (scratched casing)	200 each.
750	Sega Megadrive (complete)	35 each.
1000	B&Hedges cigs (vending packs 18's X 20)	32 each.
600	Bells Scotch Whisky 12btls (damaged labels)	50 each.
160	KenwoodBlender FP505 (complete)	23 each.
23	Sharp Viewcam camcorders (no boxes)	140 each.

Demand for these goods will be overwhelming therefore to keep the introduction of our new telephone service at a manageable and efficent level, Sherwood Auctioneers has a deadline of membership opportunity. Membership is £18 p.a. (£1.50per catalogue).

Your membership will let you be part of a unique service, in the comfort of your own home. Sherwood will provide you with a detailed catalogue every month for 1 year, a personal bid taker and facility of up bidding.

An application for membership can be obtained by sending a large stamped S.A.E. to Berry House, 55 Berry St, Coventry, CV1. SEND NO MONEY NOW

The £18 membership fee is to be payable when the application is completed and returned. Applications to be received by 29/4/97.

Sherwood Auctioneers reserve the right to refuse membership.

SELF ASSESSMENT

SELF ASSESSMENT...



DON'T PANIC!

From now on it is down to you to tell the government exactly what you have earned, spent and how much tax you owe - with hefty fines for those that don't complete their forms on time or correctly.

- **Qualified** Experts to answer your queries



For your direct local contact call **FREE** *of charge* **NOW on...**

0800 622222

GENERAL

INSOLVENCY LOOMING

CASH FLOW TIGHT

NO WIN NO FEE

Call 0385 294 260.

WE SAY YES

NON STATUS FINANCE

RE-MORTGAGE & LOANS

£5000-£500,000

- ANY PURPOSE - ANY TERM
- C.C.J's / DEFAULTS & ARREARS
- BUSINESS PURPOSES
- TENANTED PROPERTIES
- INHERITED PROPERTIES
- PRESSING DEBTS
- REPOSSESSIONS
- NO INCOME PROOF
- 72 HOUR COMPLETION SCHEMES
- NO UPFRONT FEES
- IMMEDIATE DECISION

01625 503000

MONEYPOINT FINANCE LTD, 17-19 MARKET PLACE, MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE, SK10 1EB WRITTEN DETAILS ON REQUEST

ALL LOANS SECURED ON PROPERTY SUBJECT TO STATUS WELCOME

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS OF A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

OCRA WORLD WIDE

THE WORLD'S LEADING OFFSHORE COMPANY SPECIALISTS

Full Nominee Management Accounting and Admin services available at reasonable cost.

ISLE OF MAN	£250
BAHAMAS	$500
BV ISLANDS	$500
CAYMAN	$975
GIBRALTAR	£250
IRELAND (Nominee)	£225
JERSEY	£495
MAURITIUS	$500
SEYCHELLES	$350
UK LTD	£95

ALL CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

For immediate service & our FREE 145 page colour brochure call:

R DIXON (MD)
OVERSEAS COMPANY REGISTRATION AGENTS LTD
RAMSEY, ISLE OF MAN
TEL: +44 1624 815544
FAX: +44 1624 812947
E-mail: sandaythmes@ocra.com

RICHARD COLLIN, BSc (Hons)
OVERSEAS COMPANY REGISTRATION AGENTS LTD
72 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON
TEL: +44 171 355 1096
FAX: +44 171 495 3017

FREEPHONE: 0800 269900

ISO9002 CERTIFICATED

Offshore information on www.ocra.com

COMPUTERS & COMPUTING SERVICES

GULTRONICS

Financial Security
£30m Turnover
Technical Sales
Technical Support
Full Warranty

UK'S FIRST TOSHIBA AUTHORISED DEALER

Gultronics Make TOSHIBA Notebooks More Affordable



£992 £844.96 +VAT

SATELLITE 110CS COLOUR NOTEBOOK

• Intel Pentium 100Mhz • 8MB EDO Ram expandable to 40MB • 810MB Hard disk • 11.3" USTN colour display • 2 PCMCIA slots (2x Type II or 1x Type III) • Parallel, serial, keyboard/mouse, SVGA port • Size 299x226x53 • Weight 3.2kg • Win 95 or 3.11 • 1 Year Toshiba/Gultronics Warranty



£1192 £1014.47 +VAT

SATELLITE 210CS/CT COLOUR NOTEBOOK

• Intel Pentium 120Mhz • 16MB EDO Ram expandable to 40MB • 1.35GB Hard disk • 11.3" Advanced STN/TFT colour display • 2 PCMCIA slots with ZV Port • Floppy disk drive supplied • Infra-red Transmission • Lithium-ion Battery • Weight 3.2kg • Win 95 or 3.11 • 1 Year Toshiba/Gultronics Warranty



£1392 £1184.68 +VAT

SatelLite Pro 430CDS/CDT COLOUR

• Intel Pentium 120Mhz • 16MB EDO Ram expandable to 40MB • 1.3GB Hard disk • 11.3" USTN/TFT colour display • Swappable 8Ib CD-Rom & Floppy Drive supplied • 2 PCMCIA slots with ZV Port • Weight 3.4kg • Win 95/3.11 • 3 Year Toshiba/Gultronics Warranty



£1989 £1692.77 +VAT

TECRA 510CS/CDT COLOUR

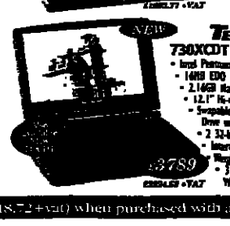
• Intel Pentium 133Mhz • 16MB EDO Ram exp. to 144MB • 1.35/2.16GB H. disk • 12.1" USTN/TFT colour • 8Ib CD-Rom & E. Drive supplied • 2 32-bit PCMCIA slots (ZV Port) • Integral AC adapter • Weight 3.8kg • Win 95/3.11 • 3 Year Toshiba/Gultronics Warranty



£1389 £1182.30 +VAT

PORTÉGÉ 660CDT TFT COLOUR

• Intel Pentium 150Mhz • 16MB EDO Ram expandable to 80MB • 1.44GB Hard disk • 11.3" Hi-res TFT colour display • Swappable 10x CD-Rom & Floppy Drive supplied • 2 PCMCIA slots • Weight 2.9kg • Win 95/3.11 • 3 Year Toshiba/Gultronics Warranty



£3789 £3224.57 +VAT

TECRA 730XCDT TFT COLOUR

• Intel Pentium 150Mhz MMX • 16MB EDO Ram exp. to 144MB • 2.16GB Hard disk • 12.1" Hi-res TFT (65m colours) • Swappable 10x CD-Rom & Floppy Drive supplied • 2 32-bit PCMCIA slots (ZV Port) • Internal AC adapter • Weight 3.7kg • Win 95/3.11 • 3 Year Toshiba/Gultronics Warranty

PCMCIA v.34 Fax/Data Modem only £116 (£118.72+vat) when purchased with any Notebook!

SALES HOTLINES 0171 436 3131 0171 323 4612

GOVERNMENT, EDUCATIONAL, CORPORATE & MAIL ORDER ENQUIRIES

217-218 TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON W1P 9AF

FAX: 0171 436 1075

GULTRONICS The Notebook Specialist

We will beat any genuine advertised price from any Toshiba authorised dealer.

COMPUTERS & COMPUTING SERVICES

Our Best Offers Yet!



Order Now! Offers End 26th April 1997

PowerStation™ GT 1 166+

14" Desktop

- PR166+ processor manufactured by IBM
- 32Mb EDO RAM
- 2.1Gb EIDE Hard Disk
- 33.6 Voice Modem
- 14" SVGA NI Screen
- 12 Speed CD-ROM
- 16-bit Stereo Sound and Speakers
- 256k Pipeline Burst Cache
- 64-bit Graphics Using 2Mb System RAM
- Massive Software Bundle
- All Standard Features

Product Code: 380-30-419

£1056.33 £899 +VAT

PowerStation™ GT 3 166M

15" Midi Tower

- 166MHz Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology
- 32Mb EDO RAM
- 2.1Gb EIDE Hard Disk
- 33.6 Voice Modem
- 15" SVGA NI Screen
- 12 Speed CD-ROM
- 16-bit Stereo Sound and Speakers
- 256k Pipeline Burst Cache
- 64-bit Graphics Using 2Mb System RAM
- Massive Software Bundle
- All Standard Features

Product Code: 001-30-649

£1291.33 £1099 +VAT

PowerStation™ GT 2

166+ desktop with 15" NI screen

Product Code: 380-30-420

£1115.33 £949 +VAT

PowerStation™ GT 4

166M with 17" NI screen

Product Code: 001-30-650

£1491.33 £1269 +VAT

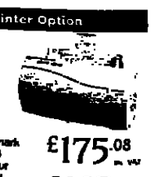
PowerStation™ GT 2B

166+ mesh tower with 15" NI screen

Product Code: 001-30-652

£1126.33 £959 +VAT

Printer Option



Lexmark 1020 colour inkjet printer £175.08 inc VAT £149 +VAT

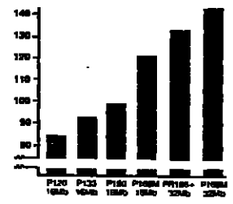
Standard Features

All systems upgradeable to Intel Pentium® 200MHz processor when MMX™ technology* ● Optional MPEG-1 kit added ● Supplied Fax/Data/Voice software ● Microsoft Internet Explorer 3 ● 3.5" 1.44Mb floppy drive ● Exceptionally 7 bay case (storage upgrade on 166+ and Optional Intel Inside on 166Mx) ● 128 Windows 95 keyboard ● PS/2 mouse ● Parallel Printer PS/2 mouse ● two fast serial game port ● One year warranty, collection to home or site, years ● Up to 17" UK Mainland business delivery (exclusions apply)

Now Is The Best Time To Buy!

Why consider end of line 120MHz, 133MHz or even 150MHz systems when you can buy our new PowerStation™ 166+ and 166M GT models at these amazing prices. The fast processors are coupled with leading components such as 32Mb EDO RAM, 33 n voice modemes, fast twelve speed CD-ROMs, large 2.1Gb hard disks and superb 64-bit graphics with MPEG to deliver fast state of the art systems at sensational prices!

Remember 32Mb RAM has more effect on performance than a faster processor. A 32Mb 166MHz system will out perform a 16Mb 200MHz system! The chart shows overall system performance relative to our PowerStation™ 150 system (based on Intel Pentium® 150MHz processor with 16Mb RAM = 100%) as measured by ZD Davis Winstone™ benchmarks.



WinStation™ GT Models

These are only £79 +VAT extra (£92.87 inc. VAT) and include everything in the PowerStation™ models shown above plus a larger software bundle including the CD titles shown below, PC Joystick and PC Microphone.

WinStation Product codes

166+ 14" GT 1 : 380-30-421
166+ 15" GT 2 : 380-30-422
166+ 15" GT 2B : 001-30-654
166M 15" GT 3 : 001-30-651
166M 17" GT 4 : 001-30-652

Buy Now...Pay October

Only on WinStation™ models

APR 0%

Interest Free Credit



TIME Granville House, Blackburn Rd, Simonstone, Burnley, Lancashire, BB12 7QT

01282 777 111

Lines Open: Monday - Friday 8.30am-7.00pm, Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

27 Showrooms Nationwide

Order Direct or call into your nearest Showroom

Aylesbury, Bedford, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Coventry, Crawley, Derby, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Guildford, Harrow, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Leeds, London, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Nottingham, Peterborough, Poole, Slough, Solihull, Southampton, Stevenage, Watford, Wembley



The Big provides of innov

Farmers h

Boatman

Crim

The Big Sheep provides a tale of innovation

Sally Watts finds a number of businesses diversifying through their links with the tourist industry

IF YOU cannot avoid having an inconvenience thrust upon you, try to turn it to your advantage. So the Turner family decided when a main road was built through land near the town of Bideford, Devon, that their ancestors had owned for 350 years.

By the time the road opened in 1987 — with a junction only yards from the 400-acre farm at Abbotsham — Michael and Julie Turner, who were sheep and arable farmers, had decided to use their new accessibility to create a tourist industry, focused on sheep. Mr Turner then decided to start a milking flock and dairy that would be central to the enterprise.

After several years' extensive research, and obtaining planning permission, they started the Big Sheep in 1988 along with their son, Ric, who had just left college with a degree in agriculture.

That year 20,000 visitors arrived and the new venture won the English Tourist Board's award, England for Excellence. It also achieved a distinction in the British Tourist Authority's "Come to Britain" category.

Although the Big Sheep is open all year, the busiest time begins at Easter. Generally there are 600 sheep (many more at lambing time), of which 200 are milked — a visitor attraction in itself.

The farm products, made from pasteurised ewes' milk, are popular, particularly with people allergic to other types of dairy produce. Milk is supplied to delicatessens and health food shops in the South West, including Cheltenham and Swindon, while hard and soft cheese is dispatched all over the country through mail order.

At first this was made by the Turners. Mr Turner is chairman of the British Sheep Dairying Association and he and his wife learnt the craft by attending a course in Scotland. The farm has won a certificate for quality produce at the International Cheese Festival.

Other sheep milk products have been added: ice cream (made on site and sold at, among other places, Bideford's theatre), fudge and some ten flavours of yoghurt. These are contracted out, using the farm's milk.

The Big Sheep is currently attracting 100,000 visitors annually; perhaps more this season because the 1997 *Good Guide to Britain* has named it Devon's family attraction of the year. The secret, says Mr Turner, is to have live shows and demonstrations, not videos.

"Something is happening here every half an hour. We cater for everyone from a three-year-old to a granny."

Local people are trained to demonstrate spinning and weaving in the farm shop, which sells rugs and knitwear, and takes orders for pullovers handknitted from Big Sheep wool. This year a second, covered adventure playground will open — the first is open-air — and catering has been extended. Originally this was managed by Mrs Turner, who provided home cooking.

There are daily sheep dog trials and even sheep racing: at 3.20 every afternoon six animals compete along a 200 yard course from paddock to milking parlour.

In an area of high unemployment, the Big Sheep employs more than 20 people in the winter, about half of them full time, and twice this number in the summer.

Ric Turner, who is 31, is applying for funding from the European Union in order to increase the number of jobs — and shows. The venture, he says, has borrowed "several hundred thousand pounds" from Midland Bank, and turnover is well above £500,000.

The Big Sheep has become a leading open farm. Ric Turner says: "We spent three years trying to stop the road being built, but now it brings a lot of visitors — school groups, parties of adults. People come for a day out, a good time. It's light-hearted fun — a theatre on the farm."

The Big Sheep: 01237 472366

TIM CUFF



Best, baa none: Ric Turner has seen the Big Sheep named Devon's family attraction of the year

Small firms form backbone of what will be world's largest industry

TOURISM and small businesses are vital to each other. By the year 2000, according to the Scottish Tourist Board, tourism will be the largest industry worldwide, led mainly by small firms. In England, more than 90 per cent of tourist-related businesses have fewer than ten staff, while Welsh tourism employs 9 per cent of the working population.

Small independent enterprises form the industry's backbone, offering B&B, self-catering and small hotels, while 134 farms, accredited by the Welsh Tourist Board, have formed local self-marketing consortiums. Among outdoor pursuits are riding, pony trekking and mountain biking. In Scotland, sole operators offer hill climbing or walking packages with guiding.

Standards matter. Training schemes, often subsidised, range from courses for managers and employees who deal with the public, disabled people and foreign visitors, through basic instruction in languages such as Japanese.

Scotland runs Tourism Business Success: eight optional modules, such as marketing and finance, that count towards a National Vocational Qualification.

"Tourism is a good line for small businesses, provided they have high standards, give good service, join the local tourist board and take training courses," says Mark Dowling, development director for South East England region.

Many ventures have add-on attractions: vineyards may include a shop and/or restaurant; there is one that even has a herd of llamas. Risebridge Farm Holiday Cottages, a self-catering family business with ten cottages on a former hop farm at Goudhurst, provides indoor swimming, squash, badminton and a gym.

For self-employed people there is guiding — but it is best to have a Blue Badge. This requires an expensive two years of training, stringent exams plus an entrance examination to weed out the doubtful.

Philip Gelling, a London Blue Badge guide for 12 years, says that a second language — especially a less well-known one — is an asset.

Guiding is well paid, with the added bonus of having the freedom to decide when you work. London has some 900 guides; others operate in Scotland, Wales and the regions.

Other possibilities include a theme restaurant, such as Capital Radio and Football Football, or a special-interest museum.

Bramah Tea and Coffee Museum attracts international visitors "who see Britain as synonymous with tea", says Edward Bramah. He opened it in 1992 in a 10,000 sq ft old warehouse near Tower Bridge.

This year Mr Bramah expects 30,000 visitors — some arriving by the Pool of London ferry to Butler's Wharf — to see his 350-year social and commercial history of tea and coffee, which includes videos and refreshments.

In addition to the collection, there is the cost of premises, display cabinets and marketing, says Mr Bramah, who once worked on a tea plantation.

It is worth seeking sources of start-up funding. For example, Wales offers capital grant aid to encourage start-ups (with a promising business plan) that will provide jobs or expand or create a market.

Tourist boards: England 0181-846 9000; Scotland 0131-332 2433; Wales 01222 499909.



"And still ten days to go!"

Farmers have grown to appreciate visitors

A FARM holiday has moved far beyond providing pin money for the farmer's wife: today it means business for both farm and locality.

"Tourism and farming are very important here," says Pamela Broadhurst, who offers self-catering and B&B at the traditional hill farm run by her husband, Nicholas, in Derbyshire's Peak District.

Mrs Broadhurst started 13 years ago with a self-catering cottage. This proved so popular that she and her husband converted a barn, then opened the house's Tudor wing, also for self-catering. More recently, they provided two bedrooms and a family room for B&B guests.

The English Tourist Board's inspection and grading system rates the premises "highly commended", which means lined curtains, fitted carpets, two bedside lights and modcons. "Service and standards are vital," says Mrs Broadhurst. "People expect the same as at home, if not better."

Mrs Broadhurst is a director and East Midlands representative of the Farm Holiday Bureau (FHB), which began in 1983 with government funding and is now a co-operative for more than 1,000 UK farms. Those in areas of need may obtain grants for footpaths, faxes, computers and so on. The bureau publishes an annual guide, *Stay on a Farm*.

In Devon, farm holiday turnover exceeded £1.5 million in 1995, part of a farm visitor spend of £2.75 million. Last autumn, Devon Farms Growth Initiative (DFGI) secured £60,000 over three years — from the EU and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food — to improve their IT system, enhance and market their brochure and help each farm to buy a fax. Now the DFGI and FHB are expanding into Europe via the Internet.

"We've run some training to increase our professionalism and generate more business," explains Bridget Cole, herself a farmer's wife offering hospitality at her home near Yelverton.

The scheme — backed by the Rural Development Commission, Dartmoor National Park and local authorities — has a visitor helpline run by Jill Balkwill, another farm caterer near Kingsbridge, to put potential clients in touch with vacancies at 120 member farms.

Devon Farms helpline: 01548 550312. Family Holiday Bureau: 01203 696909.

Boatman aims to stay afloat

AT 48, after a career in TV and film production, Peter Woodley was unable to get a job, so he turned his boating hobby into Adelaide Marine Limited, a small boat hire firm in Norwood Green, Middlesex.

Mr Woodley started in 1994, investing £120,000, which included a bank loan with his house as security. When the first season ended he was £120,000 in the red. The house is now being sold, which will put the business back in the black. Mr Woodley, his wife and their cat occupy a flat at the boat yard at Adelaide Dock on Grand Union Canal.

Meanwhile, his turnover — £160,000 last year — is moving in the right direction, helped by repairs and refitting, which form the larger part of the business. He has ten boats, including two narrow and five wide beam, bookable through Anglo Welsh hire company, of Bristol, as well as two craft for Scouts and school parties and a four-berth narrowboat.

Mr Woodley, who has four employees and casual help, finds costs are the biggest worry. He says that rent — for water, land and buildings — and rates are high in terms of likely income. In addition, licensing fees have risen. Survival depends on expansion, so this year he hopes to borrow £250,000 from Business Angels to start a hotel boat service between Greenwich and Windsor. "You don't make much money hiring boats," he says, "but it is the most wonderful life."

Drifting along the waterways on an all-mod-cons narrowboat will draw 250,000 holidaymakers in 1997. Drifters, a consortium of independent holiday boat operators, markets the attractions of a short break, a week or longer, on 2,000 miles of British Waterways. One of its members, Rose Narrowboats, near Rugby, has been hiring boats for more than 20 years. It has 23 craft — five for weekend and midweek breaks — and a day boat. The company builds its own vessels, has 11 full-time employees and part-timers and is owned and run by two families.

Bryan Ambrose, a director, emphasises the need for sound financial advice, especially as earnings are seasonal. "This is a very capital-intensive business — boats are expensive to maintain," he says. Marketing is another important item. The biggest worry is to be ready, with all the boats painted, at the start of the season. The best part is his customers' satisfaction after a relaxing holiday.

Drifters: 0345 626252.

BRIEFINGS

The Royal Bank of Scotland says its business high-interest account will guarantee a higher rate than the average of equivalent accounts in the four leading high street banks. The rate will be set on the 12th of each month. Current rates are 2.79 per cent up to £9,999; 2.9 per cent above £10,000; 3.1 per cent above £25,000; and 3.27 per cent above £100,000.

☐ The MacDonald Partnership, the insolvency practitioner, has produced a 3½in disk for Windows, giving legal guidance on what to do if a debtor enters an insolvency arrangement. *A-Z of Rescue and Insolvency* is free from 0171-351 4300.

☐ Future Machines, of Wembley, northwest London, a supplier of pool tables, fruit machines and video games to pubs and clubs, has won the £5,000 first prize in the second annual One-2-One awards for businesses that make the best use of mobile phones.

☐ Good planning for the sale of a business can take three years, says a new free guide from Deloitte & Touche. The guide, *Selling Your Business*, includes advice on tax breaks, negotiating and confidentiality, and warns vendors that purchasers look for steady growth during the pre-sale period. Details and copies: 0171-303 5868.

Rural Welsh towns receive MTI regeneration grants

BY IOLA SMITH

FIVE towns in rural Wales will receive regeneration grant aid under the £800,000 European Union-funded Market Towns Initiative (MTI). Abercrave, Cardigan, Dolgellau, Llanfair Caereinion and Rhyader will each receive up to £90,000 to establish job creation projects in sectors as diverse as craft industries, tourism and sport.

Residents of Cardigan, for example, believe that the town's maritime heritage is the key to its future prosperity. So they are seeking to acquire a 19th century tall ship that can be converted into a floating museum.

Abercrave's citizens, on the other hand, place their focus on developing craft workshops and sales outlets, while Rhyader is keen to establish an indoor tennis centre and sports hall.



Rowe-Beddoe: venture

Rhyader's townspeople also want to make contact with former residents because they believe that some who moved away to more lucrative pastures can be encouraged to return to invest and work in the town.

The Market Town Initiative was first mooted in the Government's rural White Paper *A working countryside for Wales*. The venture was launched by David Rowe-Beddoe, chairman of the Development Board for Rural Wales, who recognises both "the need to invest in communities" and "the importance for rural Wales of sustaining a strong market town network".

There were 25 towns competing for this first round of grant aid, and the five winners will all employ a development officer to bring their projects to fruition.

Crime costs rise to £2bn a year

THIEVES and vandals are costing small businesses more than £2 billion a year, a study by Norwich Union, the insurance group, shows. The claim is supported by a separate survey of small crime in Leicester that put the national small business bill for all kinds of crime at £3.2 billion.

The NU report found half of all small businesses had been broken into by burglars at an average cost of £1,273 a break-in. The Leicester report by Crime Concern, the crime prevention charity, found that 75 per cent of companies were victims of crime last year. Incidents included burglary, thefts by customers, criminal damage, losses in transit, fraud and violence.

Businesses suffered an average 3.5 incidents a year, with burglary and fraud the most common crimes. Many businesses fail to take adequate precautions. For example, Norwich Union found that only one small business in five took extra security measures over Easter, though many claimed to be worried about leaving premises unattended.

Tony Holden, a consultant at Crime Concern, said few businesses took measures other than installing a burglar alarm. His report showed that a minority of businesses were repeated targets for crime.



HOUSE TO SELL?
RING THE TIMES
0171 481 4000
*NRS July-Dec 96
TIMES CLASSIFIED MEANS SATISFIED

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Major International Energy Company

FINANCIAL TRADING LAWYER

No Energy Experience Required

Outstanding Remuneration Package

Our Client is a key division of one of the world's largest vertically integrated energy companies, with revenues of $13.2 billion per annum and world-wide assets of $16 billion.

A pivotal sector of the group's global operations, our Client is pursuing a progressive merchant business strategy in the UK and Europe. It now seeks a senior financial trading lawyer to join its close knit legal team at its Central London offices. You will advise, in a national and international context, on all aspects of the division's swaps and other financial derivative contracts with leading trading houses, banks and corporations. You will focus on energy commodity derivatives, but will also deal with interest rate, currency, equity and credit derivative products.

You will have gained at least 6 years' post-qualification financial trading experience in a major financial institution, City law firm or energy company (energy experience is not essential). You will be a hardened negotiator, pro-active, imaginative and capable of working closely with senior management in this fast moving environment.

In return, you will be offered excellent career opportunities and an outstanding salary, bonus and benefits package.

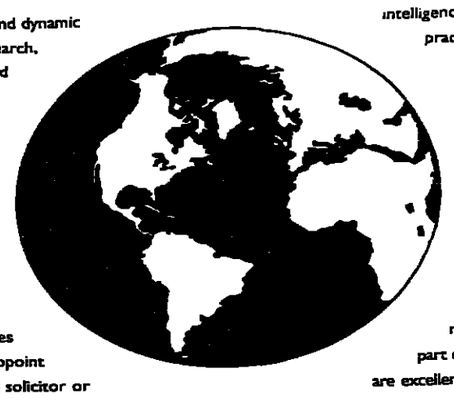
*For further information, in complete confidence, please contact **Greg Abrahams, Stephen Rodney** or **Rebecca Errington** on 0171-405 6062 (0171-266 5601 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.*

QD IN-HOUSE LEGAL

LONDON • BIRMINGHAM • LEEDS • MANCHESTER • HONG KONG • PARIS • NEW YORK • SYDNEY • MELBOURNE • AMSTERDAM

INTERNATIONAL LAWYER

ZENECA Limited is a pioneering and dynamic company, involved in the research, development, production and marketing of pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, seeds and specialty chemicals.



ZENECA Pharmaceuticals, the largest part of ZENECA, is an international organisation with annual sales of £2.4bn, operating profits last year of £757m and approximately 14,000 employees worldwide. It now wishes to appoint an energetic and highly motivated solicitor or barrister with up to two years' post-qualification experience to join its headquarters' Legal Affairs Department of seven lawyers.

The successful candidate will be involved in a wide variety of work including commercial agreements, product liability issues, joint ventures, research collaborations and intellectual property licensing, involving an international element. Enthusiasm, intelligence, sound analytical skills and a practical approach will be essential requirements.

ZENECA Pharmaceuticals is situated on an attractive parkland site in rural Cheshire, close to the Peak District and 18 miles south of Manchester. A competitive remuneration package is offered including pension, private health scheme and relocation assistance to this attractive part of the country. The career prospects are excellent.

Please write with a full c.v. and current salary details to our retained consultant, Andrew Russell, at ZMB North, Recruitment Consultants, Portland Tower, Portland Street, Manchester M1 3LF. Confidential fax 0161-238 4910. E-mail andrew@zmb.co.uk

ZMB NORTH

ZENECA Pharmaceuticals

CHAMBERS BANKING & FINANCE 23 LONG LANE LONDON EC1A 9HL TEL: 0171-606 8844 (FAX: 0171-600 1793)

BANKING & FINANCE

AAA Financial Institution to £70,000 + bonus: City

Our client is a niche international finance house with excellent capital and liquidity and strong management evidenced by its outstanding AAA rating. The company offers specialist derivative risk management products for corporations, financial institutions and sovereign entities.

The legal department is currently seeking two lawyers (3-5 pqe) to support its London operation as the business expands both in terms of volume and complexity. This house is at the cutting-edge of innovative derivative products and would offer consistent stimulus to successful applicants in a collegiate, non-hierarchical environment. Relevant experience would include exposure to swaps, structured credit, repackagings, securitisations etc. Candidates would need to develop an awareness of business and credit issues, working closely with trading and marketing staff. The emphasis will be on product development and involvement with strategic business issues and not standard documentation issues.

Global Investment Bank Banking / EEC Lawyer: City

This pre-eminent international financial institution is one of the world's leading investment banking and securities firms. It has a reputation for creativity and innovation in business spheres and prides itself on the dedication and excellence of the people it employs.

The legal department wishes to recruit a senior member to complement an existing specialist group which undertakes matters of a European and Governmental nature. In general terms this team takes a proactive stance in relation to UK and European legislative issues together with international economic trends and developments. The ideal candidate would preferably be 5 years qualified and have a through knowledge of the European regulatory framework and the Investment Services Directive. The role will be extremely varied and may encompass political and economic analysis, government lobbying, single currency and globalisation issues.

Chambers Banking & Finance recruit lawyers into banks and other financial institutions. For further information or for career advice, please ring **Deborah Kirkman** or **Stuart Morton** on **0171 606 8844.** Confidentiality is assured.

London Pride • In-House

Private Practice

Top 20 City firms are no longer the preserve of Oxbridge candidates with a City firm training. Business is booming in the City and in the last few years demand has soared. As well as offering top calibre experience and salaries as never witnessed before, the training and resources in a top City firm are second to none. An established international client base may provide opportunities for travel and the chance to work on high profile matters. A top City firm is a fantastic name on your CV and can also open doors to an eventual move in-house.
If you are currently working in a top provincial firm or a large/medium sized London firm and you have an excellent academic background, a dynamic personality and the ambition to succeed, this is a perfect time to move whilst the market remains buoyant. New instructions include:

• Corporate Finance	1-5yrs	• EU/Competition	1-4yrs
• Banking	NQ-4yrs	• Aviation	NQ-3yrs
• Commercial Lit	2-4yrs	• Construction	NQ-5yrs
• Corporate Tax	NQ-4yrs	• Private Client	1-4yrs
• Insolvency	1-5yrs	• Employee Benefits	NQ-3yrs
• Employment	1-4yrs	• Fin. Services	KnowHow

Leasing/Finance 3 - 6yrs
Diversified financial services company seeks leasing/finance specialist with strong commercial approach to join well regarded team. Positive working environment and generous package.

IT/Commercial c.2 - 4yrs
Dynamic IT co. seeks bright, outgoing young lawyer to join their growing legal team and handle a broad range of commercial and IT work. Experience of outsourcing deals essential.

EC Lawyer 5 yrs+
Herts: Exciting opportunity for UK or Dutch lawyer to join global corporation as European Legal & Regulatory Affairs Director, working with the company's subsidiaries across Europe.

Competition 1-3yrs
Great opportunity for a young, competition law specialist join the legal team at major international company. Varied, challenging workload and full package on offer.

Patent Lawyer
Major multinational seeks lawyer/patent agent with patent prosecutions experience and a strong technical background, preferably in electrical engineering.

Blue Chip plc 4-6yrs
Great opportunity for a high calibre co/com lawyer to develop career with top Blue Chip co. Top quality work & quality life.

Pensions c.5 yrs
E. Anglia: Great opening for lawyer with experience of pensions/investment products to join busy in-house legal department. Some tax planning experience useful.

Employee Benefits 1 - 4 yrs
Excellent alternative to pure law in specialist multi-disciplinary co that advises on, devises, drafts and markets executive incentive and share schemes to top plc's. Specialist experience not essential.

Please contact Sophie Brooks or Caroline Fish(Practice) or Bridget Burdon (In-House) on 0171 430 1711 or write to Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Fax 0171 831 4186.

GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG

0171 430 1711

University of Durham

Chair of Law

An outstanding scholar with a strong research profile in any field of legal studies is sought for a new Chair in the Department of Law from 1 October 1997 or as soon as possible thereafter. A major interest in public law may be advantageous.

The salary will be by negotiation within the professorial range.

For an informal discussion of the post, please contact Professor Harvey Teff, tel: 0191 374 2032.

Further details and an application form may be obtained from the Director of Personnel, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP, to whom applications (5 copies) should be submitted, including the names of three referees. (Candidates outside the British Isles may submit one copy only). Tel: 0191 374 3140, fax: 0191 374 7253, e-mail: snr.recruit@Durham.ac.uk

Closing date: Friday, 23 May 1997. Please quote reference C045.

Dynamic US Multinational: Two Key Roles

Cobham, Surrey — Excellent Packages

Cargill is a diversified, innovative US multinational, with operations in over 60 countries and an annual turnover approaching $60 billion. One of the world's largest privately held companies, it is a global leader in each of its main fields of operation: commodity trading/shipping, food processing, the manufacture/distribution of agricultural products, and financial markets.

As a result of Cargill's continued growth and success, two exceptional opportunities have now been created for high calibre lawyers, to join the legal team based at the company's European HQ in Cobham, Surrey.

Financial Markets — 3yrs+ pqe

Within this frontline, cross-border role you will be involved from the outset in structuring, negotiating and documenting a wide range of transactions in support of the group's financial markets traders. In particular, you will be dealing with trade & structured finance, capital and emerging markets and the acquisition/sale of debt/property portfolios. Applications are invited from lawyers qualified in any jurisdiction who have significant recent financial markets experience.

Company/Commercial — 2-4yrs pqe

Within this role, you will be providing a wide range of corporate and commercial advice to businesses in Cargill's European sector, which covers the UK, Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and Africa. Applications are invited from adaptable company/commercial lawyers with experience in a leading firm or company who are able and willing to handle a broad range of legal issues with a high degree of autonomy.

Candidates for both positions should be able to demonstrate academic and professional excellence together with sound commercial judgment and a flexible approach. Given the geographic scope of the business, experience of cross border transactions and language skills would be definite advantages. There will be some travel involved in both of these roles.

These are outstanding, highly challenging opportunities for first class lawyers seeking commercial involvement in a stimulating and fast moving international business environment. Both offer "City rate" salaries and a full range of benefits including a car and bonus.

CARGILL

For further details in complete confidence, please call our retained consultant, Struan Hall on 0171-430 1711 or write to him, enclosing your CV, at Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B6EN. Tel 0171 430 1711. Fax 0171 831 4186.

GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG

0171 430 1711

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGER

up to c£48k plus relocation

The Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research (CAMR) is a Special Health Authority of the Department of Health looking to expand its customer base and exploit its capabilities in the Biotechnology Business. Business expansion has led to an opportunity to join the Business Development team at CAMR.

Business Development works with scientific managers to ensure that contract negotiation and exploitation of intellectual property rights are managed efficiently and effectively. This position offers the chance to join a growing organisation with an increasing technology-based business portfolio of projects.

The ideal candidate will have legal training and be a qualified patent agent with experience of both contracts and intellectual property matters in the context of a science-based business.

For an informal discussion please telephone the Personnel Department at CAMR on 01980 612218.

For a job description and application form contact the Personnel Department on 01980 612600 (24 hour answerphone service) or e-mail: personnel@camr.org.uk quoting post reference number (3092/05). Closing date for applications is Wednesday 7th May 1997.

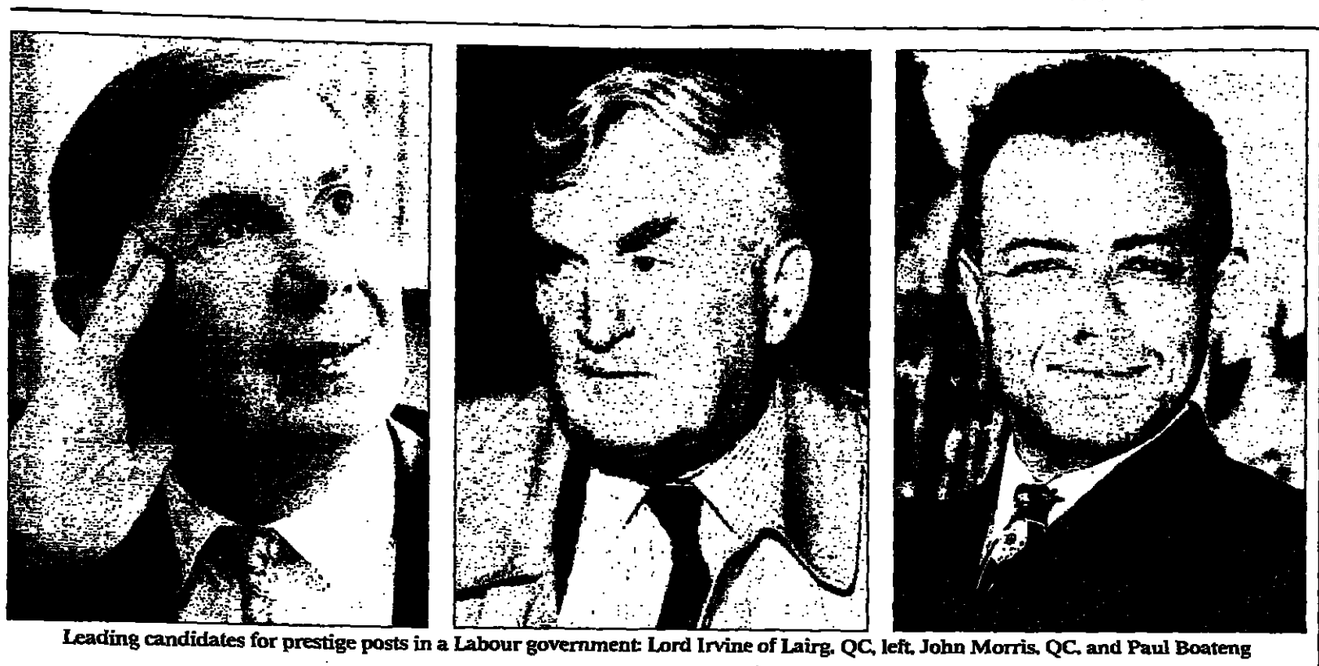
CAMR is an Equal Opportunities employer and is a healthy smoke-free environment.

Centre for Applied Microbiology & Research, Porton Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 0JG. Tel: 01980 612600

CAMR
Today's Research
Tomorrow's Health

LAW

● SEX DISCRIMINATION 45
● LAW REPORT 49



Leading candidates for prestige posts in a Labour government: Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, left, John Morris, QC, and Paul Boateng

Labour's top legal eagles

Frances Gibb offers the latest on the likely giants in the legal landscape should Labour win the election



Legal heavies: Jack Straw, left, Harriet Harman and Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC

With scarcely a chink of light between the two main political parties, what can lawyers — and the wider justice system — expect if Labour wins on May 1?

Much discreet lobbying over the past 18 months has cleared a smooth path to Labour's door for both the Bar and Law Society. The Bar already had ready-made networks through the profession itself: Labour's magic circle is now famous for its barristers, not least Mr Blair and Cherie Booth, QC. But the Law Society, through its parliamentary team, has also been oiling the wheels of contact through regular meetings and lunches, with some success.

So lines are well open to the likely members of Labour's legal team. Top of the tree, everyone expects, would be Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, Shadow Lord Chancellor and mentor to the Labour leader. The junior minister to the Lord Chancellor in the Commons is likely (though not certain) to be Paul Boateng, MP.

Speculation continues over who would be Labour's law officers. Betting is now on John Morris, QC, existing Shadow, to do the job at least for the immediate future. But there is still doubt over who will fill the Solicitor-General's post and whether he or she could come from the Lords. One possibility, Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, is now tipped to be Leader in the upper house, leaving the field wide open.

Would Mr Blair create some more Labour legal peers or "parachute" in some lawyer MPs to fill the post? Possibles for SG include Harriet Harman, now Shadow Social Services Secretary. Some even suggest the post could be filled from outside Parliament by a top QC — say Peter Goldsmith. Alternatively, Mr Goldsmith could become a special policy adviser. Such advisers are destined to assume more prominence under Labour: at present, the Lord Chancellor's Department has none, but Mr Blair has told each department they may appoint two.

The mood, then, of the profession is expectant. But it is far from fearful. On the criminal side, Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary and a barrister, echoes much of Michael Howard's concerns with his pledges on fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders and backing for new mandatory minimum sentences, albeit with greater judicial discretion. But some people doubt whether the Crime (Sentences) Act would ever see the light of day. "He can't do it," one lawyer says. "The prisons would be overflowing in no time at all." Where there would be change is in the Crown Prosecution Service: officials are already gearing up to meet proposals for a shake-up of the service to give it greater regional autonomy and to break up its top-centred bureaucracy.

The profession's main concern is on the civil side, where Lord Irvine has pledged a review of legal aid spending, hand in hand with a "cost-benefit analysis" of Lord Woolf's civil justice reforms. Extra funds for Woolf are unlikely. But there is concern that the review would effectively block progress on the reforms. Chris Philipsborn, Law Society parliamentary officer, says: "We do have a concern in case the Woolf proposals [to speed up civil justice and cut costs] fall by the wayside. We know that there will be no more money under Labour and so any extra funds will be at the expense of something else in the system."

But the Bar is backing such a review. Robert Owen, QC, the Bar chairman, says: "We do need to do this, to see whether the reforms are worthwhile and to take a comprehensive review of the way legal aid operates and to have a more radical look at how it is provided."

Labour, like the Government, wants tough controls on legal aid. But these may be more flexible than now proposed by the Government: what Roger Smith, of the Legal Action Group, calls a "soft" rather than "hard" cap on legal aid. Either way, legal aid rates for lawyers will come under pressure, which would, Mr Philipsborn says, " be of concern to the profession".

The Bar, however, is hopeful of ridding itself of proposals for standard fees in civil legal aid work, as well as plans by which legal aid solicitors hold the purse-strings and pay the advocates from their budgets — but the price may be a squeeze on the costs of legal aid in the biggest cases; what Lord Irvine called the "1 per cent of cases costing more than £100 million."

As for plans for the profession itself, Mr Boateng had originally promised a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. With far bigger legal and constitutional fish to fry — a Bill of Rights, devolution, reform of the Lords — that would not be a high priority. In any event, few restrictive practices remain: chiefly these are the rule that stops direct access to barristers by members of the public and the ban on barristers setting up shop with other professionals in multi-disciplinary partnerships. The idea of a review of these sounds rather like turning back the clock ten years to the Lord Chancellor's Green Papers.

Critics of Lord Irvine and his team say that they will prove far less radical than the present Government's ministers. So far, their proposals do nothing to dispel that view. If the party wins, it will be up to them to prove the critics wrong.

Appealing aspect of life in a democracy

Lord Justice Bowen suggested in a judgment in 1893 that "if no appeal were possible, this would not be a desirable country to live in". Mindful of the importance of the subject, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, last year asked Sir Jeffery Bowman to chair a committee to review the workings of the Court of Appeal. That committee has now published a consultation paper seeking views on a number of options for reforming the jurisdiction and procedure of the court. Interested persons have until May 2 to offer their opinions.

The Court of Appeal has a pivotal role in civil justice, hearing appeals from the High Court, county courts, the Employment Appeal Tribunal, the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Social Security Commissioners and many other bodies. Annual reports by successive Masters of the Rolls over the past ten years have identified serious administrative problems, such as increasing caseloads and lengthening delays, with more and more cases being presented by litigants in person.

In his report, *Access to Justice*, Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, identified the objectives of the civil justice system: to secure just results, by a fair procedure, at a sensible cost, with reasonable speed, in a manner comprehensible to litigants, responsive to their needs, providing as much certainty as possible, and by means that are effective in the sense of being adequately resourced and organised.

The consultation paper recognises these objectives, and that the Court of Appeal "is unable to put them all into effect at present". It therefore suggests that consideration should be given to altering the jurisdiction of the court so that fewer cases come before it, and improving its efficiency by changing the manner in which it conducts its work.

The workload of the Court of Appeal can and should be reduced in the interests of all litigants (and the health of the judiciary). Disappointed litigants whose cases have been rejected by a lower court or tribunal have no entitlement to an appeal. If their claim or their defence is not well-founded, the sooner they are so informed the better, in their own interests as well as those of the opposing party and other litigants whose cases are waiting to be heard.

At present, leave to appeal is required in many, but by no means all, cases. Rules of court should provide that no case shall be heard by the Court of Appeal unless leave to appeal has been granted. If a prospective appellant is unable to satisfy the lower court or a judge of the Court of Appeal that there is a seriously arguable case, or that there are otherwise public interest reasons for hearing an appeal (for example, to clarify an important point of law), the time of the court should not be occupied.

Applicants for leave to appeal currently have a right to an oral hearing, even where the Lord Justice who has considered the papers takes the view that the application is manifestly ill-founded. There is no justification for such a rule. The European Court of Human Rights has held that even in criminal cases there is no right to an oral hearing of an application for leave to appeal. Oral hearings of such applications should be the exception rather than the rule, taking place only if the judges of the Court of Appeal think that oral argument may help them to decide whether to grant leave. A litigant has no right to waste the resources of the court.

Renewed applications for leave to move for judicial review need not be heard by three judges, as is the current practice: two is sufficient. Unless the case involves an issue of general legal importance, appeals from county courts should be heard by a Court of Appeal consisting of one Lord Justice and one High Court judge. In fast-track county court litigation (designed for the simpler cases, in particular, defended actions in which the claim is for £10,000 or less), appeals should be heard by a High Court judge unless the issue is one of general importance.



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

For those cases which are heard on appeal, the Court of Appeal needs to continue its move away from unconfined oral advocacy. Judges need more time to read the skeleton arguments, the documents and relevant case law in advance of the hearing, so that they can focus the oral argument on the central issues. Judges of the Court of Appeal vary greatly in the approach they adopt in the hearings. The Court of Appeal should be more willing to impose time limits on oral argument, to focus the minds of all concerned. Most cases turn on one or two central issues, and the judges should ensure that less of the hearing is spent on a long knock-up before play actually begins.

According to Ambrose Bierce's *Devil's Dictionary* (1906), "to appeal" is "to put the dice into the box for another throw". Sir Jeffery Bowman and his colleagues cannot remove all of the uncertainty of an appeal (and the consequent entertainment it provides for litigation lawyers). But the review has the opportunity to suggest some important improvements to procedures.

● *The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.*

From silk to a seat

MORE THAN 150 lawyers are standing for Parliament. According to the latest figures collated by the Law Society parliamentary unit, 72 solicitors and 79 barristers are seeking seats — 72 of them standing for re-election. There are 91 Conservative lawyers, 39 Labour, 18 Liberal Democrats and three for Plaid Cymru.

Thirteen lawyer MPs are standing down, including Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Alex Carlile, QC, Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman and John Fraser, Labour's legal affairs spokesman.

Among new lawyers tipped for Parliament are Tory solicitors Eleanor Laing (Epping Forest), Humfrey Malins (Woking) and David Ruffley (Bury St Edmunds), and Labour solicitors Hasel Blears (Salford) and Maria Eagle (Liverpool Garston).

Cutting comment

PROFESSOR Richard Stone, dean of Nottingham Law School, is to succeed Mary Phillips as dean of the Inns of Court School of Law. The appointment means that the two top jobs in barrister training have gone to past and present Notts law school deans, who will now be rivals.

INNS AND OUTS

Nigel Savage was dean until April, 1996, when he took over as head of The College of Law. The college, main provider of the solicitors' legal practice course, will also be one of the main providers of the Bar vocational course from this September.

Professor Savage welcomed Professor Stone's appointment, but said: "I'd have thought that the Bar school needed a surgeon rather than an academic."

Gallows humour

IN WHAT is probably Cameron Markby Hewitt's last contribution to Anglo-French understanding before the firm disappears into the maw of the new Cameron McKenna combine on election day, James Burnett-Hitchcock, the senior litigation partner, invited four French senators to look at our legal system.

The French are going through their own version of the Woolf report to find ways to speed up justice. The senators met Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, and Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor.

However, they are unlikely to go down the proposed English route of more active case management by judges. Insiders say this would probably lead to protracted cases, not shortened ones. "Case management by French judges would put the system's head in a noose," says one source. Surely the solution is simple? Give them the rights to guillotine.

Light touch

ROBERT OWEN, QC, has been assuring chambers that the Bar intends a "light touch" in its newly announced moves to implement the Bar equality code and ensure chambers' compliance. "We will not," he said, "be heavy-handed in helping chambers to implement this code. We will be consulting and co-operating with chambers."

Righting a wrong

LONDON solicitors have won fresh assurances that criminal suspects will not be deprived of a lawyer during interviews at police stations.

After negotiations with the London Criminal Courts Solicitors' Association, the Metropolitan Police has agreed to remind officers they should inform suspects of their right to legal representation before each interview. Members had complained that duty solicitors were giving initial telephone advice to suspects only to discover that subsequent interviews were taking place without them.

SCRIVENOR



Lord Mackay: feted

Dinners all round

LORD MACKAY of Clashfern, the outgoing Lord Chancellor, is being feted on all fronts. Sir Thomas Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, is hosting a private dinner for him; the officials who each held the office of private secretary have entertained him and even the legal correspondents of national newspapers last week held an unprecedented dinner for him.

STEUART & FRANCIS



LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

CITCO

IN-HOUSE LAWYERS

£Highly Competitive + Benefits

The Citco Group is a rapidly expanding independent international financial services group providing trustee, fiduciary company management, offshore mutual fund administration and custody and banking services with over 25 offices in 16 countries.

AMSTERDAM

Citco is looking to employ a company/commercial lawyer to be based in Amsterdam and to provide legal support for its European international fund services group. The ideal candidate should be a qualified lawyer (either a solicitor or barrister) with up to three years' general company/commercial law pqe gained in private practice, at the bar or in the mutual fund industry. Fluency in French or in another European language would be an advantage.

CAYMAN ISLANDS & BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Citco is also looking to employ two Trust Officers, one for the Cayman Islands and the other for the British Virgin Islands. Candidates for both positions should be qualified lawyers (either solicitors or barristers) with up to three years' pqe. Relevant experience in one or more of the following disciplines gained in private practice, at the bar or in the industry will be required:

- **private client/trustee**
- **private banking**
- **mutual funds (with emphasis on the offshore fund industry)**
- **general company/commercial law.**

Each candidate should also be fluent in Spanish and/or Portuguese.

The positions offer excellent salaries and benefits with non-contributory pension scheme, medical insurance, relocation expenses and excellent prospects for the right candidates for a further career within the Citco Group.

QD IN-HOUSE LEGAL

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Rebecca Errington or Seamus Hoar (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-357 0912 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Dougall In-House Legal and all direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them for consideration.

TO ADVERTISE CALL 0171 680 6828

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX: 0171 782 7899

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL LAWYER

LONDON **1-4 Years' Pqe**

Founded in 1962, Service Corporation International is an American owned service provider with a global presence focusing on North America, Europe and the Pacific Rim. Its annual revenues exceed US$2.3 billion and it has a worldwide staff of more than 34,000.

The importance of its European presence through its subsidiary Service Corporation International plc cannot be over-emphasised and with an extensive acquisition programme and proven management techniques, SCI intends to extend its strategy of selective domestic and international expansion alongside continued revenue growth.

As part of this continued growth in Europe, the London based Legal Counsel seeks a mainstream company/commercial lawyer from either a private practice or industry background. The work will be broad ranging corporate transactions, primarily acquisitions but will also include more general commercial work from contracts, marketing and employment issues to intellectual property. In-depth legal knowledge and excellent technical skills are pre-requisite as is a diplomatic but assertive personality, to thrive in a highly commercial but extremely sensitive sector.

This is an exceptional opportunity to join a market leader and play a key role in their ambitious but focused growth plans. On offer is an excellent remuneration package including high base salary, discretionary bonus and additional benefits.

QD IN-HOUSE LEGAL — *For further information in complete confidence please contact Greg Abrahams or Rebecca Errington (qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-266 5601 or 0171-357 0912 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Dougall In-House Legal – all third party applications will be forwarded to QD for consideration.*

COMPETITION AND EC LAWYER

Norton Rose, a leading City of London and International Law Firm, is dedicated to providing the highest standards of service to its clients around the world. Our highly successful Competition and EC Department now needs an exceptional lawyer with about 3 to 4 years experience of UK and/or EC competition law gained in private practice or working for a competition authority.

We have a broad and busy practice which has been involved in some of the leading competition law cases before the European Commission, the Court of First Instance, the MMC and other Member State competition authorities.

The successful candidate will be based in our London office and will work on a wide range of matters including merger control, abuse of market power, restrictive agreements, public procurement, state aids and the regulation of utilities.

For further information and details of our opportunities for career development, highly competitive salary and benefits package please send your CV to Celia Staples.

Norton Rose

Solicitors

Kempson House, Camomile Street, London EC3A 7AN Telephone: +44 (0) 171-283 6000

LONDON ■ HONG KONG ■ BRUSSELS ■ PARIS ■ SINGAPORE ■ BAHRAIN ■ PIRAEUS ■ MOSCOW

Insurance Partners

The international dimension of our client base has developed significantly in recent times and within the last twelve months we have successfully established two additional offices and other strong overseas associations. Central to our strategic, medium-term business plan is the objective of developing our existing specialist areas including:

Insurance/Reinsurance

We have an exceptionally strong commercial litigation practice and an established reputation in the above sectors, particularly in relation to run-off and insolvency related work. We wish to heighten our presence by integrating another partner or team of lawyers who have an acknowledged professional standing in the insurance/reinsurance sectors.

Marine Insurance

Shipping forms an important part of our worldwide practice and although marine insurance features amongst the range of our activities, we wish to boost our existing capability in the London Insurance market. We are keen to meet and talk to senior lawyers who are seeking to relocate their practices, particularly marine hull.

Immediate equity can be offered.
In strict confidence, please telephone David Slade, Senior Partner, 0171-329 4422 (01787 222123 home)

Stephenson Harwood

London • Brussels • Guangzhou • Hong Kong • Kuwait • Madrid • Piraeus • Singapore

JOHNSON STOKES & MASTER

- Solicitors in Asia since 1863 -

CHINA HONG KONG THAILAND VIETNAM

Johnson Stokes & Master is Hong Kong's largest law firm and one of South East Asia's leading commercial law practices with more than 170 lawyers and a total staff of over 800. We are now seeking lawyers in the following areas:-

1. Company/Commercial

Candidates should have 3 years post qualification experience and the ability to deal with a variety of company/commercial work (including joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions) for a diverse range of clients. The ability to speak, read and write Chinese is essential.

2. Corporate Recovery

The ideal candidate will be 2-3 years qualified with substantial experience in corporate rescue and workout involving multi-bank dept restructuring and refinancing of listed companies.

We offer a generous package commensurate with experience and challenging work (both local and international) in a stimulating work environment.

Please apply in writing with full CV to the Human Resources Manager, Johnson Stokes & Master, 17/F, Prince's Building, 10 Chater Road, Central, Hong Kong. Fax: (852) 2530-2503.

OZANNES

Advocates & Notaries Public

GUERNSEY

Corporate Lawyers – 1-5 Years' PQE and Senior
***Banking Lawyers* – 1-5 Years' PQE and Senior**

Seeking a better quality of life without having to compromise on quality of work?

OZANNES is one of the largest firms in Guernsey and has a highly regarded commercial practice.

The firm specialises in offshore commercial and corporate work and has a blue chip international client base. The firm's practice includes, in particular, mutual fund establishment and general advisory work for investment and private banking clientele.

OZANNES is now seeking to recruit junior and senior lawyers with corporate and/or banking experience to join its expanding commercial department to undertake a wide spectrum of work. Experience of offshore finance, although useful, is not essential.

This is an unique opportunity for innovative lawyers looking to direct their expertise and talents to the demands of a busy and broadly based financial practice.

Additional benefits are a pleasant working environment with no commuting, a high standard of living in a low tax jurisdiction, good communications with London and competitive remuneration.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Pandora Close on 0171 242 0303 (0181 878 6044 evenings/weekends) or write to her at Hughes-Castell, 87 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1BD. Fax: 0171 242 7111.

Hughes-Castell International Legal Recruitment Consultants

36 BEDFORD ROW

The Chambers of James Hunt QC
Wishes to appoint a

Senior Clerk

The chambers has 51 members (including 8 Silks) who work in teams covering crime, civil, family and commercial work. We are a modern set with established management structures headed by a Practice Manager. Chambers operates from an excellent grade 2 listed building in London with annexes in Northampton and Leicester. We have traditionally covered the Midland and Oxford Circuit but increasingly cover a wide geographical area including London.

The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate success in their current post which will almost certainly be within a current well regarded set.

The remuneration offered will be commensurate with the skills and experience of the candidate.

Applications should be made by CV including your current remuneration to Frances Oldham QC at 36 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH

Closing date: noon, 6th May 1997

ISO 9002

De Montfort University, Leicester

ARE YOU A LAW GRADUATE?

Wishing to train as a SOLICITOR?

Learn while you earn, through the two year part-time POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN LEGAL PRACTICE by open learning (CPE / PGDL also available)

For information and advice, quoting ref: TL2, please telephone:

Richard Norrie or Valerie Webster: 01234 841010
Martin Packer or David Guisley: 0116 2551551

GARFIELD ROBBINS

LONDON • LEEDS

Where men still rule

The law is a ground-breaking profession, except for women, says Clare McGlynn



Celebrating female success: Cherie Blair, QC, at the Women Lawyer Conference in London this month

Sex discrimination is increasingly recognised as a fact of life in the legal profession. Achieving change, however, is difficult and slow. One strategy that can be adopted with potential success is to emphasise the business case for equality, which emphasises the fact that the training and recruitment of women lawyers is an expensive business, so sensible employers will capitalise on their investment by seeking to train and promote women lawyers. Research from the CBI and the Equal Opportunities Commission shows that equality can be costly for businesses if they do not introduce anti sex-discrimination practices.

Opportunity 2000, a business-led campaign, provides a proven formula for putting the business case into action. It has one clear objective: to increase the quantity and quality of women's employment opportunities. Underpinning the campaign is a belief that organisations that fail to utilise their female resources are compromising competitive performance.

For law firms, membership of Opportunity 2000 could work as a focus and impetus for action; ensuring that the voices of women lawyers seeking to change the culture of a very masculine profession have a cogently researched and argued basis for their arguments and suggestions.

To illuminate this debate, the organisation Young Women Lawyers surveyed employment practices at the biggest 200 solicitors' firms. The results were disappointing for several reasons.

In 1995 YWL found that only 25 per cent of new partners in the biggest 100 firms were women. This year, we found that this figure had risen to only 27 per cent (26 per cent in the largest 200 firms). Women have been entering the profession in almost equal numbers for more than ten years, but this is still not borne out in partnership numbers.

YWL found, also in 1995, that of the biggest 100 firms, 24 per cent offered paternity leave. This figure has risen to 39 per cent, falling to 30 per cent in the largest 200 firms. Paternity leave represents a move towards a greater recognition of the role that fathers should play in the care of their children, and the evidence is that law firms are taking a step in the right direction. But progress is slow, especially when compared with the 70 per cent of Opportunity 2000 firms offering paternity leave.

Figures for parental leave are even lower. Only 10 per cent of the largest 100 firms (8 per cent of the largest 200) offer parental leave, compared with 35 per cent of Opportunity 2000 firms. Almost as disturbing was the expressed ignorance of many respondents, including some of the largest City law firms, as to exactly what parental leave is.

More worrying is that the European Community has adopted a directive providing for three months' unpaid parental leave. It is not yet applicable in the UK, but a change in government may lead to the implementation of the directive. Some awareness of the directive from law firms could surely be expected.

We sought information on the availability of part-time working for both men and women. One firm displayed its antiquated and discriminatory views on this issue by declaring that it would consider requests for part-time working from women, but "not at all for males".

There is clearly little hope that working practices and the stereotyping of men and women's roles will change while such prejudices remain. Forty-seven per cent of the largest 200 firms replied that partners could work part-time and 66 per cent of firms offered part-time work to assistant solicitors.

The final disappointing factor was the response rate: just under a third. This contrasts with a 60 per cent response rate when YWL carried out its first survey two years ago. This time we did not warn firms that we would name them if they did not respond. Surely it would not take such a threat for law firms to respond? Some firms refused to disclose information on their policies. Perhaps they were embarrassed to reveal the few numbers of women partners or the lack of appropriate employment practices; or perhaps they were keen to keep such valuable information out of the marketplace.

To ensure real equality for women lawyers, real institutional change is required. The development of more flexible and "family-friendly" employment policies would be a move in the right direction, and the lessons and membership of Opportunity 2000 could help to bring this forward.

● *The author is a lecturer in law at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and chairs Young Women Lawyers. Lady Howe, Chairman of Opportunity 2000, and Tony Girling, Law Society President, will discuss the role of Opportunity 2000 and the business case for equality at an open meeting next Tuesday at 6.30pm in the Old Council Chamber of the Law Society. To attend, send a cheque (£3 members, £5 others) payable to YWL, 76 Milton Grove, London N16 8QY. Further details: 0191-222 7616.*

Edward Fennell reports on an opportunity for lawyers

British firms bridge the Gulf


Kanaan: driving force behind a conference in Abu Dhabi

The European Union is paying increasing attention to the Arab world (known euphemistically in Brussels as "the Mediterranean countries").

Last week it held a 27-nation Euro-Med conference in Malta and this week its Communities Corporation Programme is sponsoring a conference in Abu Dhabi organised by the British Middle East Law Council to examine legal developments in the Gulf area.

The BMEL is widely complimented for doing a good job in waving the flag on behalf of "British invisibles" and the conference is of considerable importance for UK law firms operating in the region.

The Foreign Office and the Department of Trade and Industry have given their backing to the event and the British ambassador, Anthony Harris, is making a keynote speech.

Featured on the programme are speakers from most of the top London firms, including Allen & Overy, Freshfields and Linklaters & Paines, while the driving force behind the event is Ibrahim Kanaan, the secretary-general of the BMEL, who is also a lawyer with Elliott & Co.

Mr Kanaan says it is vital that London lawyers should demonstrate their collective commitment to this part of the Middle East. He says: "The Gulf is the most stable part of the region. Increasingly, the law practised locally is being required to meet international criteria.

"For example, there are developing capital markets in the Gulf and the area is being seen as an arbitration centre. In the light of this, there has been a need to update both the British and the Gulf legal professions about what has been happening. An exercise in comparative law of this kind is valuable."

One of the most delicate issues is how western financial techniques, which are the bread and butter of a City lawyer's life, can be reconciled with Islamic law and, in particular, its prohibition on charging interest.

Even some of the speakers at the conference admit privately that they are mystified by the devices used to get round the problem.

The trigger to this development is the quickening process of economic transformation. Some states are starting to see the end of their oil reserves. Others are no longer content to sit back passively on oil revenues.

Industry is starting to develop and new ways of raising money are being adopted — hence the capital market.

> 'There is no longer the huge pot of money from oil, but this is stimulating these initiatives'

Much of the investment is coming from the US and the risk is that this could create an opportunity for US lawyers to grab most of the work.

London's advantages are its traditional links with the region and its experience in developing public and private partnerships. In particular, the British experience of the private finance initiative is attracting considerable interest from Gulf bankers and lawyers — so much so that most of the Linklaters' session at the conference is devoted to explaining how PFI works.

Simon Burch of Linklaters says: "There is no longer the huge pot of money from oil that there used to be in the Gulf, but this is stimulating these economic and industrial initiatives. At Linklaters we have an excellent project finance practice, so of course we feel we have a lot to contribute to these initiatives as they get off the ground."

Linklaters' practice in the area is described as "steady" with enough work coming through to make it a sustainable interest to the partnership.

Firms such as Clifford Chance, Allen & Overy, Richards Butler and Simmons & Simmons have long-standing offices in the area, while those who do not continue to debate the merits of opening there.

One possible threat to London lawyers, however, is an increasing "Gulfisation" of professional services. This could mean that non-local firms are squeezed out.

One of the most significant signs of this trend occurred last autumn when Richards Butler set up in Oman in conjunction with a local law firm, Said Al-Shahry.

According to Said Al-Shahry, the principal at Said Al-Shahry Law Office, he had wanted to link up for some time with a western law firm to take advantage of the new business opportunities.

He says: "Oman is enjoying a high level of economic activity and foreign investors and businesses are participating in an unprecedented way."

The BMEL is helping to ensure that London gets some of the benefits from this growth.

HARBOTTLE & LEWIS

TAX AND TRUSTS

Harbottle & Lewis provides legal and strategic advice to a wide range of clients, most of whom are involved in our specialist industry areas of media/entertainment/sport, property investment and aviation. A high proportion of the firm's senior lawyers are recognised leaders in their fields of practice.

As part of the firm's development and expansion, we are recruiting a solicitor of about four years qualification to take a key role in our tax and trusts group. Candidates should have a pro-active and innovative approach, a good academic background and experience in the fields of tax planning, wills, trusts and probate. An ability to understand and relate to a wide variety of clients, many of whom will be in the entertainment and media industries, is essential.

This will be a key position in the firm, which is committed to developing its work in this field in response to an increasing volume of work and excellent opportunities for expansion. If you have:

- good experience
- the ability to take a significant management role; and
- the creativity and commitment to combine your expertise, your skills, our reputation and our client base to develop this area of our practice

this is a unique opportunity for you to develop your career quickly.

Please apply in writing to Michael Bowler at Harbottle & Lewis, Hanover House, 14 Hanover Square, London W1R 0BE. Fax: 0171 667 5100; email: mbowler@harbottle.co.uk.t

Please apply to us directly even if your CV is already with an agency.

OPPORTUNITIES IN INSURANCE

Allen & Overy is one of the leading international law firms with over 1600 staff working in 15 major centres world-wide. The Corporate Department has gone from strength to strength in recent years and includes specialist areas such as Insurance.

The increasing sophistication of insurance and risk finance techniques requires a flexible and creative approach to business opportunities by the insurance industry. To help us meet this need, we are looking for additional high calibre lawyers to join our Insurance Group.

The Insurance Group combines expertise in insurance with experience of other market sectors and jurisdictions, so that it applies a wide range of legal and commercial techniques to insurance issues and brings an innovative approach to solving legal problems and developing business opportunities.

The work includes advising on mergers and acquisitions involving participants in the insurance industry often on a cross border basis, regulation and the establishment of Lloyd's corporate capital vehicles. There is also the opportunity to be involved in project finance transactions.

We are looking for qualified lawyers who have previous experience of working on insurance related transactions.

Please send your CV to: Christine Lynch, Allen & Overy, One New Change, London EC4M 9QQ or call her on 0171 330 4103.

ALLEN & OVERY

LONDON • BEIJING • BRUSSELS • BUDAPEST • DUBAI • FRANKFURT • HONG KONG • MADRID • MOSCOW • NEW YORK • PARIS • PRAGUE • SINGAPORE • TOKYO • WARSAW

GARFIELD ROBBINS

LEGAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

LONDON • LEEDS

Royex House
Aldermanbury Square
London EC2V 7HR
Tel: 0171 417 1400
Fax: 0171 417 1444

Salaries To £500K • Salaries To £500K • Salaries To £500K • Salaries To £500K

STRUCTURED FINANCE
7 Years Plus Qualified ***£500,000***
The Structured Finance Department of a major investment Bank is looking for a Head of Department to lead a team of four lawyers. The Bank is looking for someone with equity derivatives or fixed income derivatives experience. This candidate will already be at one of the top ten firms or another top investment bank and will have handled this type of work for at least five years. Excellent remuneration which will be given in return for drive and commitment. Ref: T11751.E.

CORPORATE FINANCE/MEDIA
2 to 5 Years Qualified ***to £65,000***
High profile Central London firm is seeking additional lawyers for its Corporate Department to practice primarily corporate finance work for a client base involving niche areas such as telecoms and media. The firm has a strong international profile and candidates are assured exposure to clients and responsibility from day one. Candidates should have a strong academic background and training from a practice known in this area. Ref:T11433.J.

BANKING - IN-HOUSE
4 to 9 Years Qualified ***£100,000+***
Leading investment bank with a large, established legal department, is seeking an additional commercial banking lawyer to join its team. The ideal candidate will have a background in mainstream commercial banking issues from a top twenty firm and equally importantly, the ability to command respect at all levels plus a confident, outgoing personality. Ref:T05418.J.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
NQ to 4 Years Qualified ***to £55,000***
Leading City firm with a rapidly expanding commercial property group requires an additional assistant to handle a broad range of work including institutional and corporate support work. The firm's policy is to provide full training and assistants are encouraged to be generalists. The firm will consider applications from solicitors qualifying in September 1997 (good academics and minimum of six months training experience required). Ref:T7252.C.

BANKING
3 to 7 Years Qualified ***to £100,000***
Leading City firm with a major international presence requires an additional senior assistant, with a view to partnership, to join a department of four partners and seven assistants. The firm requires assistants who have remained generalists in banking. The three key departments are derivatives, project finance and general banking. The firm will consider applications from solicitors in private practice or in-house with a bank. Partnership prospects will be discussed. Ref:T5463.C.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL
1 to 4 Years Qualified ***Sydney***
This is a full international partnership with 160+ partners worldwide, over 70 in Sydney and a corporate department of over 15 partners who act on privatisations, takeovers and substantial M&A transactions. They seek and will sponsor visa applications for UK lawyers provided they have worked in another leading firm but are also interested in Australians or New Zealanders. Ref:T11198.D.

CORPORATE TAX
Senior ***to £Partnership***
This is an unusual position with a medium sized and very progressive City firm with a particularly strong Company Department. A senior tax specialist is now sought to advise the tax department and maximise the genuinely huge potential that is very easily available. A strong personality and leadership skills are essential for this position but strong technical ability and an ability to translate often complex concepts into "plain English" are paramount. Ref:L11548.G.

CORPORATE AND BANKING
1 to 4 Years Qualified ***Melbourne***
One of the leading Melbourne practices is actively recruiting good corporate and banking lawyers to work in Australia. They will be interviewing candidates in London very soon and are particularly interested in seeing Australians/New Zealanders but will also sponsor exceptional UK lawyers. The firm has a superlative client base of leading Australian and international banks and blue chip corporates. Ref:T11645.D.

Visit our web site for salary advice www.garfieldrobbins.com

Please contact Dominique W Pengelly, Alison Barrett or Gavin Crocker (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 417 1400 or write to them at the London office for more information in complete confidence. Evenings, Weekends 0181 960 6144. Confidential Fax 0171 417 1444. Email:dominiquewp@garfieldrobbins.co.uk

WATSON, FARLEY & WILLIAMS

Our *clear focus* and Your *ambitious nature*, in **partnership**



Senior Banking Lawyers
Immediate Partnership Prospects

You are a senior banking lawyer (at least 5 years' pqe) with general banking experience and, ideally, with exposure to structured, project or property finance work.

You are looking for the chance to make your mark in a firm which shares your goals. You know where you want to go, you know what you want from your career. It now needs the right environment, support and encouragement to bring further success.

The clear focus of our multi-jurisdictional Finance Group, principally based in London, Paris and New York, is to provide our clients with a seamless international service. We want banking lawyers like you who share this vision to join our Finance Group.

Put your ambition and our clear focus together and you have opportunities without limits. If you are what we are looking for we will offer you the chance of immediate partnership and an excellent remuneration package.

QUARRY DOUGALL

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact **Stephen Rodney, Seamus Hoar** *or* **Sarah David** *our retained consultants on* **0171-405 6062** *(0171-403 5727 evenings/weekends) or write to them at* **Quarry Dougall Recruitment**, *37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.*

TRAINING AND COURSE DEVELOPMENT

BPP Professional Development is an accredited provider for The Law Society's Professional Skills Course, Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test, in house training and public CPD courses. We seek a lawyer who will enhance our established team of tutors, and assist in the design and marketing of new training services.

Experience as a lecturer or in the management of law training would be helpful, but is not essential. You will be a qualified lawyer with a good academic background, first class communication skills and an imaginative and commercial attitude to the provision of legal training.

Please write, enclosing your CV, to David Potts, BPP Professional Development, 15 Jockey's Fields, London WC1R 4BW, or, for a preliminary discussion, telephone him on 0171 242 1122.

BPP PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

HARDWICKE BUILDING

Hardwicke Building's Personal Injury and Medical Negligence group, led by George Pulman QC, needs to recruit a junior tenant of up to 3 years call.

Commitment to Personal Injury and Medical Negligence is important and the successful applicant will probably have had this specialist experience as a pupil.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Please apply in writing with a CV to: Alan Smith, Hardwicke Building, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3SB.
DX: LDE 393. Tel: 0171-242 2523.

CHAMBERS
PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

23 LONG LANE LONDON EC1A 9HL TEL: 0171-606 8844 (FAX: 017-600 1793)

Personal Comments

Most candidates know how important it is to present well at interviews. Those who dress down, chew gum, slouch in with hands in pockets, or sit in reception reading a copy of *The Sun*, are probably less than enthusiastic about the vacancy. They are acting out some private compulsion of their own. However, even normal candidates can find it difficult to gauge what will create the right impression.

Two recent instances. The first was a candidate who went to see a City firm dressed in his best shirt and tie, with his best rings on his finger. The shirt was a striking shade of yellow, the tie was flowery, and the jewellery was simply excessive. Fortunately, the interviewer liked him, and rang us to suggest that if he returned for a second interview he might consider a more conventional appearance. This he did, and got the job.

The second was a candidate who was impressive in all respects other than his weak handshake. The personnel manager rang us to suggest that when meeting the senior partner (who had a thing about handshakes) the candidate be rather more forceful. We passed this on, and he, too, was offered a job.

One advantage of using recruitment consultants is that they can be told things which it would be embarrassing to tell candidates direct.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS' DIRECTORY
Our legal directory is available from Bibfios, (01403 - 710 971)

INDUSTRY *Sonya Rayner, Morwenna Lewis*

Oil Lawyer: Aberdeen
Solr or barr with approx 7 years' experience to join UK subsid of major independent oil company. Work will include joa's, farm-ins, acquisitions and disposals. Good business sense and experience of UKCS essential.

Eng/Construction: London
Commercial lawyer with min 3 years' pqe reqd to join construction co as sole legal adviser. Good drafting skills essential. Work will include jv's, employment law and IP.

Commercial: North West
Major international co seeks solicitor/barrister 6 months to 2 years' pqe. Broad workload will include drafting agreements, product liability and M & A work. Science background useful.

Travel Company: London
High profile company needs a 2-6 years' pqe solicitor to handle commercial litigation, conveyancing, employment and contracts. Excellent drafting skills essential and languages would be useful.

Leasing: London
International finance company needs lawyer with minimum 5 years' pqe. You must have experience of leasing work and will also handle M & A. Role will involve a considerable amount of travel.

Commercial: London
International broadcasting company requires a lawyer with approximately 2 years' pqe. General commercial work will include employment and IP matters.

PRIVATE PRACTICE SOUTH: *Helen Mills, Alicen Shepherd, Noel Murray* LONDON: *David Woolfson, Simon Anderson* NORTH: *Suki Bahra, Paul Thomas*

Banking/Regulatory Litigation: City
Leading City firm seeks 2-4 year qualified litigation asst with banking and financial services experience to join highly regarded team handling exceptional work.

Litigation Partner: WC2
Successful, high profile med-sized commercial firm seeks outstanding commercial lit solicitor with a dedicated client following to join as a partner.

IP Litigation: City
Senior IP specialist with trade mark and patent litigation experience sought by 50 partner City firm. High rewards and real prospects for committed lawyer.

Private Client Partner: C. London
One of the leading specialist private client firms seeks senior solr to inherit practices of two partners due to retire. Property expce useful for firm's landed clientele.

Commercial Property: US Firm
London office of leading East Coast firm seeks 3-6 year qualified solicitor for heavyweight development projects in UK and Europe for substantial US investors.

Senior Corporate Finance: City
Medium-sized firm offers 5-7 year qualified solicitor excellent partnership prospects in flourishing dept handling full listings, AIM flotations and M & A.

Telecomms Partner: City
Formidable IT and multi-media practice with unrivalled international network seeks senior solicitor to lead development of telecomms unit.

Company/Commercial: Kent
Large commercial firm with enviable client portfolio seeks corporate lawyer c. 2-5 years' experience to handle wide range of co/com. £ City rates.

September 1997 Qualifiers
Firms throughout the North are now interviewing for various contentious and non-contentious commercial positions. Please call for details.

Legal Researcher
Chambers' legal directory needs qualified lawyer to join team researching the legal profession. Ring Reena SenGupta: 0171-606 1300.

CURRENT CONTRACTS

EMPLOYMENT
Assistant solicitor sought by this small commercial firm, based in the City, whilst they are looking for a suitable permanent candidate. Applicants should have experience of both contentious and non-contentious employment law and should also have dealt with both employers and employees. Contract to start immediately for a 3-6 month period. *Ref: 39757*

FAMILY
Widely based, general London practice requires a solicitor to assist with heavy workload as soon as possible. Ideally candidates must have at least 3+ years' pqe together with up-to-date divorce and child care experience. *Ref: 38537*

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL
Progressive and much respected City firm, needs a 4-8 year qualified solicitor with corporate experience from a similar City background. Immediate start, to assist with heavy workload. Contract is open ended at this stage. *Ref: 38856*

COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS
Legal department of this public sector group wishes to recruit a solicitor for a 1 year contract to start immediately. Experience of drafting contracts, ideally performance based service contracts, essential; experience of computer contracts an advantage. *Ref: 28645*

FINANCE
Banking/finance lawyer, with 1-5 years' pqe, sought by this small niche London firm. Contract is to start immediately and will be open-ended, with the possibility of becoming permanent. *Ref: 39761*

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
Well established firm, with a broad based practice, seeks an experienced commercial property lawyer for a 6 month contract which could become permanent. The position has arisen as a result of a heavy workload and candidates must be able to work on an unsupervised basis. *Ref: 39493*

COMMERCIAL/COMPLIANCE
Life assurance arm of merchant bank seeks a qualified lawyer, for their regional office, to assist with the drafting of policy conditions in order to comply with regulations. This will be a one-off project to start within a month. *Ref: 38536*

NON FEE-EARNING
Banking lawyer sought by the London office of a leading American law firm to assist with updating of precedents and in particular with the drafting of finance procedures. Position could be part-time or full-time. *Ref: 39613*

COMMERCIAL/LEASING
Solicitor/barrister, with around 5 years' pqe, sought by this leasing company to cover for a maternity leave. Candidates must have experience of asset leasing, as well as having a more general commercial background. Contract is to start mid-May for 6 months. *Ref: 39588*

EMERGING MARKETS
London based investment bank seeks a solicitor/barrister with a minimum of 3 years' experience in emerging markets to join the legal team for a 3-6 month contract. Experience required must include funded loans, securities and repos. Immediate start. *Ref: 39709*

SPL SPECIAL PROJECT LAWYER

For further information please call **Nicky Rutherford-Jones** *or* **Emma Hopkins** *on* **0171-405 6062** *(0171-350 0682 or 0181-540 2381 evenings/weekends) or write to us at* **Special Project Lawyer**, *37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.*

SPL is a QD Company

THE LAW OFFICERS OF THE CROWN

GUERNSEY

require

AN EXPERIENCED LAWYER

Guernsey is a self-governing dependency of the Crown. H.M. Attorney General and H.M. Solicitor General are the legal advisers in Guernsey both to Her Majesty and to the States of Guernsey (the Island government). Their duties include responsibility for advising all departments of the States, for criminal prosecutions and providing advice generally in criminal matters, and for drafting legislation.

The Law Officers are assisted by a team of 6 professional lawyers, 3 of whom are Crown Advocates, and it is the appointment of one of the latter as the new Magistrate in Guernsey which has led to the present vacancy arising (as from the 1st October 1997).

Applicants should be qualified to practise law in England and Wales, Northern Ireland or Scotland and have, preferably, at least 5 years experience, either in general common law practice, criminal work, legislative drafting or governmental work, or a mixture thereof.

The successful applicant will be expected to qualify as an advocate of the Royal Court in order to appear, in due course, before the Courts and Tribunals of the Islands, on behalf of the Crown and the States, and will then have the prospect of being appointed a Crown Advocate.

The appointment will be on a permanent basis. The salary will be determined by the States Civil Service Board and will be according to qualifications and experience, though the initial salary is likely to be in the region of £37,000 to £39,000.

Further information on the post, application forms and notes on the conditions of service, may be obtained from the Secretary to the Law Officers, St James Chambers, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 2PA (telephone: 01481 723355).

Completed application forms should be returned to the Head of Personnel and Establishments, Civil Service Board, Sir Charles Frossard House, La Charroterie, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 1FH to arrive no later than 16 May 1997.

OPPORTUNITIES

CONSTRUCTION *To £50,000*
Major opportunities at this top 10 firm for a lawyer with 0-3 years' pqe in construction dispute resolution and a lawyer with 0-2 years' pqe in non-contentious construction work. Also needs lawyers with c.4 years' pqe with experience of drafting English law-governed EPC/construction and other documents. Ref: T34663

PRIVATE CLIENT *To £70,000*
This well-known medium-sized City firm has a market-leading private client practice, making it the perfect move for a lawyer with 3+ years' experience of onshore and offshore trusts, wills and tax planning. This is seen as a key position in the department, and the pay and prospects reflect this. Ref: T37954

INFORMATION OFFICER *To £65,000*
Work at one of the City's leading firms without all the stress. This is a great opportunity for an experienced corporate or commercial lawyer to work full- or part-time as this top 20 firm's information officer. The challenge and rewards will be excellent. Ref: T39617

DEFAMATION *To £40,000*
This is the perfect firm to build your reputation as a defamation lawyer. If you have 0-3 years' pqe, you will take on a very important role in this market-leading practice and will be very well rewarded. You must have good experience, as well as a high level of stamina and energy for a demanding but exciting job. Ref: T36159

CORPORATE TAX *To £40,000*
Working as a vital cog in this top 20 City firm's corporate wheel, you will be working on the fullest range of tax matters, from property to shipping, as well as advising a substantial base of your own clients. You will have 1-3 years' pqe and can expect some very exciting prospects. Ref: T39507

IN-HOUSE DERIVATIVES *To £Exceptional*
This is the place to be if you want to advise on almost every type of derivative. One of the world's leading investment houses needs lawyers with either 2 or 4 years' relevant pqe as leading City firms or other banks to join the team and receive a quite excellent package. Work will be very varied. Ref: T39528

JUNIOR CORPORATE/TELECOMS *To £37,000*
This medium-sized City firm has a mammoth-sized reputation for corporate work, especially in multi-media. It therefore has a fantastic client list across all departments and offers a very bright future to corporate and telecoms lawyers with 0-1 years' pqe. Ref: T39585

EMPLOYMENT *To £50,000*
This well-known medium-sized firm is in a major growth phase as it takes on more and more top tier clients. An employment lawyer with 1-4 years' pqe and enthusiasm for conducting his or her own advocacy in industrial tribunals could find this a good way to build a reputation and move quickly to partnership. Ref: T28784

IP/IT/TELECOMS *To £55,000*
At a top 10 City firm, you have every right to expect top quality training, a defined career path and the best clients to work for. This one certainly delivers. It's a great move for a non-contentious IP lawyer to work in the corporate department, as well as an IT/telecoms lawyer, each with 1-4 years' pqe. Ref: T24532

IN-HOUSE BANKING *To £Excellent banking package*
This well-known international bank is going through some major changes as it expands hugely and is a great place for a banking lawyer with 3-5 years' pqe to come in as one of its leading advisors. You will ideally have experience of at least two of trade finance, ISDA, leasing and compliance. Ref: T39669

BANKING *US firm To £Outstanding*
An unmissable opportunity for a banking/international finance lawyer c.5 years qualified to join this leading US firm in London, take on a very senior role and soon become partner. The pay matches the importance of the role, the quality of the work and the reputation of the firm. Ref: T39526

EC/COMPETITION *To £54,000*
You will only work on the biggest and most high-profile matters for similarly good clients at this top 10 City firm. It has an excellent career and training structure just waiting for an EC/competition lawyer with 1-4 years' pqe, especially if that is in telecoms, regulatory or trade law. Ref: T33965

PROPERTY PFI *To £55,000*
Top quality PFI lawyers are much in demand at the moment as the work stacks up. With Labour committed to continuing PFI, it is a great time to be a specialist in this area, as this top 15 City firm demonstrates. It offers a very exciting future to a property PFI expert with 3-5 years' pqe. Ref: T22380

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY *To £38,000*
Enjoy a very high standard of work and life at this leading City firm if you have 1-2 years' commercial property experience. Work includes property management, granting leases, acting for landlord and tenant, assisting with large scale acquisitions and disposals, and development. Ref: T29803

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact **Nick Peacock, Adrian Fox** *or* **Jonathan Marsden** *(all qualified lawyers) on* **0171-405 6062** *(0171-228 0476 or 0171-286 1441 evenings/weekends) or write to them at* **Quarry Dougall Recruitment**, *37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.*

QD QUARRY DOUGALL

LONDON • BIRMINGHAM • LEEDS • MANCHESTER • HONG KONG • PARIS • NEW YORK • SYDNEY • MELBOURNE • AMSTERDAM

Join a major financial services organisation

COMMERCIAL LAWYER

West Yorkshire — *£competitive + financial sector benefits*

As the Country's fifth largest banking group, Abbey National enjoys a high profile within the financial services industry, and has 870 branches and some 15 million customers.

Joining our General Insurance Law Unit, part of Abbey National Legal Services, you will have the opportunity to become involved in a broad range of activities including policy drafting, marketing, contracts, corporate work and support to the claims department.

A Solicitor or Barrister, your 3 - 5 years' post qualification experience will be within a Commercial Law firm, or the Financial Services Sector, ideally with an insurance background including litigation. Strong communication skills and a proactive approach to the delivery of a business focused legal service are essential.

The competitive salary is supported by a full range of discretionary financial sector benefits.

Please write with full CV and current salary details, by 9 May, to: Angela Stevens, Personnel Officer, Abbey National plc, Provincial House, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 1NL.

To support a healthy environment, Abbey National has a no smoking policy. Abbey National positively welcomes applications from every section of the community.

ABBEY NATIONAL

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

LONDON OPPORTUNITIES

CONSTRUCTION — £100-250,000

A major City firm with a balanced portfolio of finance, development and construction companies, our Client's practice in this area has expanded dramatically in recent years. The firm offers an outstanding opening for a 6 year plus qualified lawyer with substantial construction skills. For partners transferring over, the firm's merit remuneration structure will immediately reward high flyers. (Ref.9262)

IN-HOUSE M&A — TO £80,000

Unusual role within one of the City's leading investment banks. A corporate finance lawyer is sought to take a lead role in supporting the bank's corporate finance business and advise on UK and cross border M&A and related issues. High profile role within a very profitable area of the bank. Will suit those seeking a responsible role with a significant commercial element in a highly rewarding environment. (Ref.9652)

UNUSUAL CORP OPPORTUNITY — £PREMIUM

This accountancy sponsored law firm is proving successful in achieving its ambitious plans for growth to a legal practice of some fifty lawyers by year end. If you are a first rate corporate or commercial solicitor looking for a move to a smaller but high quality team where your contribution will really count, this is well worth exploring. Premium salaries and dynamic and progressive environment. (Ref.9459)

INSOLVENCY — £30-55,000

1-4 year qualified insolvency specialists are invited to apply for a position with this leading City firm. The team of contentious and non-contentious lawyers is busy and work levels continue to increase. In order to maintain a balanced outlook, the firm wants to spread the load and grow the team at the assistant solicitor level. You will join a pre-eminent name in the insolvency field. (Ref.9466)

PROPERTY LITIGATION — TO £30-50,000

Junior position for a 1-3 year qualified litigator has arisen to specialise in property disputes with this international firm. The team will consider both property and litigation solicitors with a desire to combine both disciplines. You need a genuine interest in property, a client friendly manner and outgoing personality. You will work in a frontline role with young and enthusiastic partners. Training will be given. (Ref.9288)

SENIOR EMPLOYMENT — £100-150,000

This medium sized but expanding City law firm is seeking to strengthen its employment law team. Already pre-eminent in this area and with a healthy and productive work environment the team is stable with an excellent quality client base. As a result of an ambitious business plan an additional partner is sought to help drive the practice forward. (Ref.9686)

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT — £TOP CITY

Leading investment bank seeks lawyer to be responsible for all legal and regulatory matters relating to its European private client services. Will handle and manage all related legal projects including structuring packages/products, negotiating agreements and risk management. 3-5 years' experience from a City law firm or bank is essential, with experience of negotiating investment management documentation. This is a proactive role which requires significant initiative and creativity. (Ref.9651)

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY — £MARKET RATE

The Property Department in this niche City practice has an impressive client base for its size and the flow of quality instructions continues unabated. As a result, the partners seek an assistant, ideally 1-4 years' qualified, technically competent and with an outgoing personality, who is seeking quality of work and quality of life. (Ref.9393)

BANKING — £35-48,000

This collegiate and well managed City law firm, led by a friendly team of partners, is expanding its banking practice at the 2-4 year level. The work will be challenging but not repetitive as the firm does not handle high volume, documentation driven, capital markets work. Broad ranging finance experience would be ideal. (Ref.9426)

COMMERCIAL/LEISURE — TO £35,000

A newly or recently qualified solicitor is sought by this Central London firm which boasts an impressive transport, aviation, leisure and commercial practice. With an unusual and interesting blend of commercial clients you will gain interesting and high quality experience. Strong academics, commercial training and good drafting and negotiation skills are required. (Ref.9667)

For further information in complete confidence on these and the many other private practice vacancies registered with us, please contact **Andrew Caulfield** or **Yvonne Smyth** (both qualified lawyers) on **0171-377 0510** (01483-828110 evenings/weekends). Alternatively, write to us at **Zarak Macrae Brenner**, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail andrewc@zmb.co.uk

ZARAK • MACRAE • BRENNER

ZMB

SPECIAL CAREER OPPORTUNITY

We are a progressive, well-established seven partner firm.

Our office in the West End requires a dynamic, ambitious top-quality solicitor with a proven ability to handle substantial commercial property transactions for successful and demanding clients. A following, although not essential, will be seen as evidence of the successful applicant's partnership - potential. Salary will be structured to enable the right person to earn £80K+

Please send CV to Box No 4460 The Times.

STOCKLER CHARITY

This small successful litigation practice seeks to expand in the area of domestic/commercial conveyancing. Application is sought from an experienced practitioner with an established client base. Starting salary will depend on age and experience. The appointment will be made with a view to early partnership.

Applications with CV to:-

2/3 Cursitor Street
Chancery Lane
London EC4A 1NE
DX: 445 London
FAX: 0171 404 6717



SHOOSMITHS&HARRISON

SOLICITORS

Shoosmiths & Harrison are one of the country's leading law firms employing over 400 people and with offices in Nottingham, Southampton, Rugby, Northampton and Milton Keynes. We continue to grow and prosper in the Midlands and South of England. We are now looking for [illegible] to join our expanding team in the following areas. All applicants must have relevant experience and be able to demonstrate a commitment to quality and client care. We are looking for candidates who have [illegible]

Nottingham

Corporate

To handle a wide range of corporate work including MBO's and management buy-outs. Ideally you will be ACA qualified with 2-4 years post qualified experience and have worked in one of these areas.

Commercial Property

Ideally you will be ACA qualified with 2-4 years post qualified experience and have worked in one of these areas. Specialist knowledge of [illegible] would be an advantage.

Southampton

Corporate Finance

Commercial Property

Employment Litigation

Rugby

Commercial Property

Commercial Litigation

Northampton

Commercial Property

Banking

Tax

Replies to:

People we can do business with

Investment Banking

Corporate Finance
Outstanding corporate-finance openings for City lawyers with 0-2 years' pqe and excellent academic records to join leading merchant bank.
Ref 23195 - Claire Hine

EC/Regulatory
Interesting opportunity for 5-year-qualified lawyer to join premier investment bank to advise on effects of implementation of EC regulations.
Ref 36234 - Claire Hine

Compliance
Leading asset manager requires proactive and analytical compliance specialist to join expanding department to undertake regulatory monitoring.
Ref 34513 - Claire Hine

Capital Markets
Leading global investment bank requires a lawyer with 3-6 years' pqe to join its capital-markets team; exciting and challenging role.
Ref 36371 - Niru Chandra

European M&A
Leading bank offers corporate-finance lawyers with 2-4 years' pqe the chance to transfer skills to a non-legal environment; languages essential.
Ref 34723 - Niru Chandra

Derivatives
Excellent opportunities exist for ambitious derivatives lawyers with 1-2 years' pqe to join major European bank in Paris or Singapore office.
Ref 36321 - Niru Chandra

PSD

Reuter Simkin
Legal Recruitment

Reuter Simkin
5 Bream's Buildings
Chancery Lane
London EC4A 1DY
Tel: 0171 405 4161
Fax: 0171 242 1261
E-Mail rsl@psd.co.uk
Internet www.psd.co.uk

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Great Expectations

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Comm Property — to £33K
City: c 40 partner firm has role for NQ-1.5PQE solicitor to deal with extensive property matters acting for impressive clients.

Comm Litigation — to £35K
City: Niche litigation practice with young dynamic partnership seeks outgoing and bright litigation solicitor c2PQE.

Employment — to £36K
W.London: Excellent opportunity for ambitious employment lawyer 3-4PQE to front up own department & develop huge potential.

Civil Litigation — to £Partner
S.Coast: Head of litigation role in small firm awaits experienced solicitor with management and marketing skills.

Corporate — to £36K
Berkshire: Fast growing firm with enviable corporate client-base seeks top grade solicitor NQ-4PQE for quality work.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Personal Injury — c £25K
Kent: Plaintiff personal injury solicitor/experienced legal executive sought by leading practice for high volume caseload.

Int Property — to £42K
City: Highly successful c 60 partner firm seeks a solicitor c4PQE to handle contentious copyright, trademark & IT work.

Property Lit — c £28K
City: Top 5 firm with extensive clientbase has an excellent opening for a solicitor c2PQE to join flourishing department.

Fin Services — to £40K
City: Solicitor NQ-3PQE with good fund management and financial services experience sought by c70 partner firm.

Property — c £45K
London: West End property firm seeks motivated 5PQE solicitor to handle secured lending for retail/leisure clients.

IN-HOUSE

Banking — to £65K
City: International bank seeks City trained solicitor c3-6PQE, experienced in structured finance/general banking work.

Shipping Lit — to £40K
City: 1-5PQE solicitor/barrister sought by P&I Club to handle insurance claims. Opportunity for lawyer to move in-house.

Pensions — to £50K
E Anglia: Financial services company seeks solicitor 6PQE+ experienced in pensions and investment products.

Oil & Gas — to £80K
Scotland: UK oil giant seeks lawyer 5-7PQE for expanding dept. Energy/oil & gas experience needed. Overseas travel.

Finance — to £150K
City: Dynamic organisation seeks solicitor 5-10PQE to set up and run dept handling intl finance/investment banking.

LIPSON LLOYD JONES

For further information contact:
Lucy Boyd
Jon Garrett
Lynne McCarroll
All lawyers

LIPSON LLOYD-JONES
LEGAL RECRUITMENT
127 Cheapside
London
EC2V 6BT
Tel 0171 600 1690
Fax 0171 600 1972

SPORT/EASTERN BLOC - Our client, a niche commercial practice in Hampshire has connections with both. Leading partner now seeks assistant NQ - 18mths for interesting and varied CoCo workload. Contact Donald & Co(Asp) Tel: 01747 828337 Fax: 01747 828047.

WILL CONSULTANTS Comm. Bournes, Leeds, training supp. Disciplined telephone skills essential. OTE £16K. For info pack Tel North and Midlands (01937) 584633 South (01934) 622012

PARALEGAL REQUIRED - To assist a Doncaster business with major commercial litigation. Applicant must have computer skills, be enthusiastic, available immediately and prepared to commit for a minimum of one year. Applications to Box No 4522

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

BOX No:- .....

c/o TIMES NEWSPAPERS
P.O. BOX 3553,
VIRGINIA ST,
LONDON, E1 9GA

Lawyer - Lloyds Underwriting Agency

Our client is a Lloyds Underwriting Agency underwriting approx £70 million of premium income per annum. It specialises in international aviation risks, predominantly in North America, professional liability and related classes.

The successful candidate will be responsible for leading the product development process, working with underwriters and addressing the needs of International Assureds.

Liaising with lawyers and representing the firm at national and international business events will be a central part of this key position. This is a front-end position offering career progression opportunities in either underwriting or corporate management.

Ideally you will be at least 2-3 years qualified probably working in the insurance unit of a City firm, though not exclusively. You should have

- ✓ knowledge of insurance related law
- ✓ knowledge of the operations of the Lloyd's market
- ✓ good communication and interpersonal skills
- ✓ ability to work in an unstructured and entrepreneurial environment

This is a challenging role requiring energy, imagination, versatility and above all the ability to problem solve.

If you would like to discuss this challenge in confidence please send a CV by one of the following methods to Delamere de Lisle: Premier House 10 Greycoat Place London SW1P 1SB Tel: 0171 222 6444 Fax: 0171 2225552, or E-mail: jd@ddlmx.demon.co.uk Ref. T718

DELAMERE LISLE

City
£40,000
Benefits

LLOYD MANAGEMENT

Major Legal Practice

PARTNERSHIP SECRETARY

London

c£45,000 + car

A medium sized, long established and highly respected firm of solicitors, our client provides a range of services to corporate and private clients, both in the UK and overseas. The firm's international operations and business are expanding rapidly.

The Partnership Secretary will be an important member of the administration function, providing high level support to the firm's management team. Working for the Senior and Managing Partners on a range of matters, he or she will ensure the enaction of partnership decisions, deal with a number of administration tasks and manage several external reporting and commercial relationships ie with the Law Society, pension fund trustees and insurers.

Likely to be aged around 40, candidates should have a strong administrative background. Experience gained in a professional partnership would be useful but the firm is prepared to consider good candidates from a corporate company secretarial or services background.

Please write, enclosing a career/salary history and daytime telephone number, to David Hogg FCA quoting reference H/253/T.

LLOYD MANAGEMENT Selection Consultants, 125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QA Tel: 0171 ... Fax: ...

CAPSTICKS
SOLICITORS

Law Firm of The Year 1997
(Best Medium Size Firm)



CAPSTICKS' NHS clients are multi-million pound enterprises requiring the full range of commercial, property, employment, advisory and litigation services. We now wish to recruit a number of lawyers to help us continue to deliver the outstanding quality of service that has enabled us to grow at more than 20% *per annum in recent years. In addition to financial* rewards commensurate with the City or West End, we offer:

Quality of work
The quality of our work matches anything that is available in the City for variety, interest and the satisfaction of being able to steer your own cases through to their conclusion. It is underwritten by an extensive programme of training and research.

Quality of prospects
Our unique, open and much praised management structure means everyone in the firm can see clearly where they are and what they need to do to achieve progress. Coupled with our rate of expansion and plans for future growth, this gives people who have joined CAPSTICKS clear opportunities for career development.

Quality of life
Our location in Putney puts an end to the miseries of commuting but quality of life is also enhanced by an ethos which, while demanding hard work, doesn't require you to sacrifice a home or social life.

We have a number of vacancies for high calibre lawyers with up to 5 years' PQE in commercial litigation, commercial property, corporate/commercial, medical negligence and employment law.

Please write, enclosing your CV, to Sue Laundy, CAPSTICKS, 77-83 Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 2TT. Alternatively, for a preliminary discussion in confidence please feel free to telephone her on 0181-780 4800.

1997 THE LAWYER

CAPSTICKS
SOLICITORS
Where Quality Counts

LEGAL ADVISOR

AMEC Project Investments Limited is a newly created subsidiary within AMEC p.l.c., an international engineering, construction and development group with an annual turnover in excess of £2 billion.

APIL will spearhead our involvement in concession based construction projects, primarily concentrating on the Private Finance Initiative proposals initiated by the UK government.

Already successful, in joint venture, in securing two major road schemes valued in excess of £350 million, we are the preferred bidder on a number of healthcare projects and are heavily involved in other proposals covering rail, property, roads and health. As a result, we are now seeking assistance for our Senior Legal Advisor at APIL's headquarters in Salford Quays, Manchester.

Ideal candidates will have some 2-3 years post qualification experience either in private practice or in the construction industry, where experience of dealing with contentious work would be an advantage, although not essential. Familiarity with PFI work, either in the UK or overseas would also be an asset, as would some commercial property experience.

With a thorough understanding of contract law, you will have a constructive approach to problem solving and be a highly effective communicator at every level. You should be prepared for extensive travel and be happy to work on the move, using a laptop computer.

Although primarily responsible for advising APIL, you will also be asked to advise other Group companies on occasion. Career prospects for a good teamworker are excellent. A generous salary and benefits package will reflect your important contribution.

Please send your CV in strict confidence to: Ms J A Jones, AMEC p.l.c., Sandiway House, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 2YA.

We are an equal opportunities employer

AMEC

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
Senior Crown Counsel

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie to the South East of the Bahamas and consist of two groups of islands separated by a deep water channel. Tourism and off-shore financial services are the lynchpins of the economy, with fishing also an important activity in an area characterised by a fine tropical climate and attractive beaches.

Working mainly with TC Invest, the Government investment agency, in the negotiation of commercial agreements between the Government and third parties and their attorneys, you will draft or revise all necessary legal documentation. In addition, you will advise on development projects and the structure of commercial transactions including acquisition and disposal of land so as to promote the Islands' economy and good Government. Providing commercial legal advice to Government and its agencies, with particular reference to inward investment, tourism development and offshore financial services will also fall within your remit.

QUALIFICATIONS

A qualified barrister, solicitor or advocate, you will have at least three years' post qualification experience coupled with a broad range of commercial expertise. Experience of working in a small jurisdiction would be desirable. Applicants should either be nationals of Member States of the European Economic Area (EEA), or Commonwealth citizens who have an established right of abode and the right to work in the United Kingdom.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

You will be on contract to the British Government for 2 years in service to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Salary will be c.£39,400 p.a. (UK taxable). Additional benefits will normally include variable tax-free allowances, children's education allowances, free accommodation and passages.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 19 May 1997.

For further details and application form, please write to Appointments Officer, Ref No AH304/JB/TT, Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA, stating Ref No AH304/1/JB clearly on your envelope, or telephone 01355 843352.

ODA is committed to a policy of equal opportunities and applications for this post are sought from both men and women.

ODA
OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
BRITAIN HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES

emap

Deputy Company Secretary

PETERBOROUGH **C£40,000 + CAR**

EMAP plc is one of the fastest growing and most respected media groups in Europe, publishing consumer magazines, providing business to business communications media, and operating radio stations. The group with operations in the UK and Europe has a market capitalisation of around £1.5 billion.

Reporting to the Company Secretary you will assist in all aspects of company secretarial administration and in managing the group's relationship with its legal advisers. This will include statutory and Stock Exchange compliance, including corporate governance, plus the provision of advice to directors and managers across a diverse range of legal matters including acquisitions, contracts, employment law and intellectual property. There will also be a component of project based tasks.

This is a challenging role for a suitably qualified professional with relevant post qualification experience in a broad company legal/corporate secretariat role. You will demonstrate energy, initiative and adaptability, and you will have the confidence and skills to manage a demanding workload, often under pressure. Your ability to develop strong working relationships with senior managers and professional advisers will be critical to your success in this role.

An excellent remuneration package is available to the successful candidate.

Please write promptly, in confidence with full career and salary details, to Sue Matheson at MSL International Limited, 32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL. Please quote reference 63080.

MSL

HEAD OFFICE LONDON TEL: 0171 487 5000 11 OFFICES NATIONWIDE

Adobe

Adobe Systems is the world's third largest personal computer software company. Founded in 1982 Adobe helped launch the desktop publishing revolution. Today, the company offers a market leading line of software for creating visually rich communication materials across all print and electronic media. Adobe's European headquarters are based in Edinburgh. Employing around eighty people in areas such as marketing, legal services, finance, and operations it provides the highest levels of service and support to subsidiary offices throughout Europe.

ASSOCIATE EUROPEAN LEGAL COUNSEL

The Associate European Legal Counsel will provide high-calibre advice and support to selected Adobe departments and business units on a wide range of European legal issues. This will include drafting and negotiating all types of software distribution and licensing agreements, trade mark licensing and reviewing press releases, marketing materials and sales promotions. In addition you will provide back-up on general corporate work.

Reporting to the European Legal Counsel and liaising with a wide variety of internal bodies and external advisers, the successful applicant will be a UK or EU qualified Solicitor, Barrister or Advocate with a minimum of three years post-qualification experience in industry or private practice. A customer-focused individual with excellent communication skills, you will operate independently without close supervision or dedicated PA support. Working to tight deadlines within a fast-moving environment, a flexible approach and the ability to prioritise and manage multiple projects effectively is essential.

Your first-class legal skills will include:

- specialisation in commercial contracts and intellectual property law
- experience working with the software industry or other copyright business
- knowledge of EU competition law

Based in Edinburgh, this is a key position requiring a talented professional who will thrive in a dynamic, quality-driven environment. Given the European focus of the role some travel will be necessary and fluency in a second European language is desirable.

As you would expect from a market leader in this field, Adobe offer an excellent salary and benefits package. Relocation assistance is available where applicable.

For further details please call Carolyn Black or Alex Hunter on 0131 557 2223 or to apply send your CV to:

A&M Stephens,
19 Albany Street,
Edinburgh, EH1 3QN.
Fax: 0131 556 8057.
E-Mail:
cblack@amstephens.co.uk

A & M STEPHENS
RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

Working at the sharp end of consumer law

Consumers' Association publishers of Which? is the driving force behind consumer protection and consumer law, campaigning vigorously for improvements to laws affecting the rights of consumers. We offer a wide range of legal advice in reaction to customer enquiries, mainly through our unique legal service called Which? Personal Service. Based in our Customer Service Centre at Hertford our team of 10 lawyers provide practical advice and assistance to members in need of legal support, helping them obtain access to justice.

We now have opportunities for three lawyers to join this team.

Hertford

Senior Lawyer c£24,000
Lawyer c£20,500

For both positions we would expect you to be a solicitor or barrister. The work varies in nature and complexity and you will need a sound knowledge of consumer law to handle the many legal problems brought to us by our members, either over our telephone advice lines or in the form of written case work. You will also advise other departments and journalists on consumer legal issues.

As a **Senior Lawyer**, you will be expected to lead a team of lawyers and deputise in the manager's absence, helping to train and develop the Which? Personal Service team and the services they provide. Well organised and self-motivated, you will be able to demonstrate to us the highest standards of management and professional expertise.

As a **Lawyer** you'll need a thorough knowledge of consumer law and county court litigation. You'll manage a heavy caseload working under considerable pressure in a team environment, so proven organisational skills are essential. The cases will be many and varied. Recent examples include assisting a member with a claim against his insurers, helping the owner of a defective car receive a full refund plus costs and resolving a disputed claim regarding the standard of holiday accommodation.

Legal Advisor c£18,000 12 month fixed term contract

We are also looking for someone with a legal qualification specialising in consumer law to support the team. With a keen sense for customer service, you will provide prompt, accurate advice based on sound knowledge of current legislation, explaining what the consumer's next step could be. You will also be required to have a broad understanding of the main issues published in Which? Magazine, including those on which we have policies or campaigns. You will also liaise with other parts of our organisation and provide feedback to editorial and research staff.

Clearly, excellent written and oral communication skills are essential as are commitment, flexibility and enthusiasm. In return, we are offering a competitive salary and benefits package, that includes a contributory pension scheme, free life assurance and 28 days' holiday.

If you are interested, please send a full CV with a covering letter, specifying which position you are interested in and explaining why you are right for the job, to Ms Roni Lee, Consumers' Association, Castlemead, Gascoyne Way, Hertford SG14 1LH. Closing date: 6th May 1997.

57 Consumers' Association 97 50 YEARS OF SERVING THE CONSUMER

CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION

Fairness, integrity, impartiality. For consumers and candidates alike.

LITIGATION LAWYER

A highly motivated solicitor qualified 1-2 years needed to join an expanding Holborn practice. The successful candidate will be working alongside partners on the busy interface between the litigation and commercial departments. Work will be varied and challenging with a high degree of client contact. An excellent package and career development prospects for top calibre appointee.

Apply in writing only to:

W. L. Eddlestone Esq.
Hamilton Downing Solicitors
Ruskin House
40/41 Museum Street
LONDON WC1A 1LT

HAMILTON DOWNING
SOLICITORS

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY - Vacancies throughout the South for Sols NQ to Partner level in commercial firms with lots of quality work. Call Macdonald & Co.(App) Tel: 01747 828337 Fax: 01747 828047.

MATRIMONIAL - DEVON - Modern progressive practice seeks Sol from 2 yrs + admittance for mix of family/childcare. Call Macdonald & Co.(App) Tel: 01747 828337 Fax: 01747 828047.

TRY A CAREER THAT ISN'T LEGAL

Private company seeking to expand, following highly successful first five years of trading, seeks Graduates, aged 23-30, or those of sound academic background to be trained to the highest standard with aim of full profit participation within 2-3 years. Call:

PETER SQUIRE
0171 436 1801

INTENSIVE LAW REVISION COURSES
April 14-26 and May 12-24, 1997
Covers the six (6) core subjects
Central London Venue
Contact: Mrs Rose Williams
0171-400-9423

All Box number replies should be addressed to:
BOX No:-
C/o The Times Newspapers
P.O. BOX 3553,
Virginia Street,
London E1 9GA

Council duty after children placed in care

Barrett v Enfield London Borough Council

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Schiemann

[Judgment March 25]

It was contrary to the public interest to impose a duty of care on a local authority in respect of those decisions as to the future of a child in its care which would normally have been made by a parent.

However, if a social worker was careless in implementing decisions relating to a child in care the local authority could be held to be vicariously liable for the resulting damage.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Keith Trevor Barrett, against the decision of Judge Brandt at Colchester County Court on April 30, 1996 to strike out his claim against the London Borough of Enfield for damages for personal injuries.

Mr Allan Levy, QC and Miss Elizabeth Gumbel for the plaintiff; Mr Nigel Baker, QC and Mr Brendan Roche for the local authority.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that in *X (Minors) v Bedfordshire County Council* ([1995] 2 AC 633) the House of Lords was concerned with the extent of the duty owed by local authorities to children prior to their being taken into care. The present appeal concerned the extent of the duty owed by local authorities after children had been placed in their care.

The plaintiff, who was aged 10 months when a care order was made in favour of the local authority and who remained in care until he was approaching the age of 18, claimed damages for breach of duty at common law by the authority and its employees. He alleged that the authority was under a duty to act as would a parent and to show the standard of care which could be expected of a responsible parent.

There was, he alleged, a duty to protect him from physical, emotional, psychiatric or psychological injury, to provide him with education and a home where his safety would be secured and monitored, to promote his development, to plan both his short term and long term future, to secure his rights to family life and to provide competent and suitably qualified and experienced social workers to monitor his welfare. He also alleged that the social workers who were responsible for looking after him were under similar duties.

Among the complaints which were made were failing to arrange for his adoption, inappropriate placements with foster parents and community homes and the lack of proper monitoring and supervision while he was at the different placements.

There was also criticism of the failure to obtain appropriate psychiatric treatment and failing properly to manage his reintroduction to his mother after he had not seen her for 11 years and criticism of how his relationship with his half sister was managed.

There had been no previous decision establishing a common law duty in those circumstances, so it was necessary to consider whether it was just and reasonable to extend the common law duty of care to a local authority when it was performing its duties to protect and promote the welfare of children in its care.

In relation to children who were not in its care in *X (Minors)* the House of Lords did not consider it as appropriate to superimpose a common law duty of care over and above the local authority's statutory responsibilities for children.

It was not possible to directly transpose the reasoning in *X (Minors)* to the present situation. However, in relation to the decisions of the local authority which it was alleged could have contributed to the psychiatric and psychological difficulties of which the plaintiff complained, it would be contrary to the public interest and therefore not just or reasonable to impose a duty of care.

The very fact that the authority was stated to have been in the position of a parent to the plaintiff at the material time brought home the public policy aspects of the situation. The decisions often required a difficult and delicate balancing of conflicting interests.

Parents were daily making decisions with regard to their children's future and it would be wholly inappropriate that those decisions, even if they could be shown to be wrong, should be ones which gave rise to a liability for damages. If the decisions were taken by the local authority in place of the parents the position should be the same.

It would be unfortunate if the possibility of litigation years afterwards could cause a more defensive and cautious approach to taking positive decisions as to a child's future than would otherwise be the case.

Social workers were all too often open to criticism for intervening but intervening was often what was necessary and when it was they should not be discouraged from doing so by the possibility of litigation. It would be intolerable if social workers adopted a safety first approach.

If complaint was to be made, then an investigation by an ombudsman was more likely to result in a satisfactory conclusion than the investigation by the courts. The ombudsman could award compensation for misfeasance in appropriate cases.

The plaintiff relied on the assumption of the Court of Appeal in *Capital and Counties plc v Hampshire County Council (The Times March 20, 1997)* of the principle, with which his Lordship agreed, that: "There is no general immunity for professionals or others carrying out difficult tasks in stressful circumstances."

However, his Lordship was not suggesting a blanket immunity but an immunity in relation to the making of those decisions as to the future of a child which were normally made by a parent.

If it was not fair or just to make the authority directly liable for the way it exercised its discretion when caring for the plaintiff, then equally there would be no justification for placing the social workers who in practice would exercise the discretion on behalf of the local authority in any different position.

Social workers and other members of the staff could, however, be negligent in an operational manner. They could, for example, be careless in listing property belonging to the child or in reporting what they had observed for the purposes of an interdisciplinary assessment of what action should be taken in relation to a child. They could also be negligent in failing to carry out instructions properly.

If in implementing his own decision or decisions of the authority, a social worker was careless, there would be a case for the authority being vicariously liable if the necessary causation of injury or other damage could be established.

However, although complaints as to that type of conduct were made, there could be no prospect of the plaintiff succeeding on those complaints alone. He would be quite unable to attribute any part of his condition to that sort of incident.

The plaintiff had no realistic prospect of succeeding on the allegations in his particulars of claim. His Lordship was therefore in agreement with the decision of the judge to strike out the claim.

Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Schiemann agreed.

Solicitors: Thompson Smith & Puxon, Colchester; Browne Jacobson, Nottingham.

Criteria for reversing finding of fact

Hossack v General Dental Council

Before Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Hutton

[Judgment April 16]

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council would reverse a finding of fact by the professional conduct committee of the General Dental Council if that finding was out of tune with the evidence to such an extent that the members of the committee must have misunderstood that evidence.

Their Lordships so held in allowing an appeal by the appellant, Robert Julian Hossack, against the committee's determination on November 20, 1996, that he was guilty of serious professional misconduct and that his name be erased from the dentists' register.

Mr James Badenoch, QC, for the appellant; Miss Joanna Glynn for the General Dental Council.

LORD LLOYD said that the charge against the appellant was that he had accepted three patients for dental treatment as National Health Service patients in the course of which he failed to employ a proper degree of skill and attention in providing treatment for them, and failed to carry out treatments necessary to secure the oral health of Mr Stephen Gerald Dack and Mrs Yuk-kuen Hou, and that in relation to the facts alleged he had been guilty of serious professional misconduct. The other patient was Mrs Coral Patrice Lawson.

Mr Dack was treated by the appellant in 1992. He had been a patient of the appellant for about 14 years. His teeth needed a great deal of attention. In addition to ordinary fillings the appellant carried out a root treatment of one tooth and replaced the crown.

In November, 1992, Mr Dack was seen by Mr Bull, the dental reference officer, as part of Mr Bull's routine duties. In a report Mr Bull criticised the appellant's treatment of that tooth. The dental services committee subsequently recommended a withholding of £2,000, which was reduced on appeal to £500.

Mrs Hou had also been a patient of the appellant for about 14 years. She attended for treatment in 1992 with a broken tooth which she asked him to save if possible. Three weeks after the treatment was completed the crown fell out, but it was replaced and had given no trouble thereafter.

She was seen by Mr Bull, who criticised the appellant's treatment of that tooth. The dental services committee recommended a withholding of £1,000, which was reduced on appeal to £750.

Mrs Lawson became a patient of the appellant in 1994. She needed 10 fillings, two crowns and a replacement bridge to span three teeth. She did not like the look of the bridge and in November, 1994, she complained about it to the family health services authority.

In December, 1995, she was seen by Mr Martin Kelleher, a consultant restorative dentist. He reported that the bridge was unsatisfactory in four specified respects. The case was referred to the dental services committee. £1,000 was withheld and the appellant was ordered to repay £200 to Mrs Lawson.

In due course, the appellant was called before the professional conduct committee. On November 20, 1996, the chairman announced that the facts alleged in the charge had been proved, and later he announced that in relation to those facts the committee had found the appellant guilty of serious professional misconduct.

As to the Privy Council's approach, their Lordships had been referred to *Libman v General Medical Council* ([1972] AC 217, 221), where it was said that: "the only circumstances in which an appellate court can reverse a view of the facts taken by the disciplinary committee would be a case where, on examination, it would appear that the committee had misread the evidence to such an extent that they were not entitled to make a finding in the state of the evidence presented before them."

It was said (at p221) that it was difficult for an appellant to displace a finding or order of the committee: "unless it can be shown that something was clearly wrong either (i) in the conduct of the trial or (ii) in the legal principles applied or (iii) unless it can be shown that the findings of the committee were sufficiently out of tune with the evidence to indicate with reasonable certainty that the evidence had been misread."

For the reasons mentioned in *Libman*'s case, and in many subsequent appeals, the Privy Council was always reluctant to take a different view of the evidence than the highly qualified members of a professional conduct committee, but it would on occasion feel compelled to do so.

The expert witness called by Miss Glynn in support of the charge was Mr Kelleher. If he had given evidence in accordance with his report their Lordships would have dismissed the appellant's appeal without much hesitation. But he did not.

His evidence, both in chief and in cross-examination was favourable to the appellant. He said that there was no need to replace the bridge unless Mrs Lawson wanted a replacement for cosmetic reasons. By itself, his evidence could not support a charge of failing to employ a proper degree of skill and attention in Mrs Lawson's case.

Miss Glynn also called Mr Anthony Francis Clough. He was in a somewhat anomalous position since he had been a member of the dental services committee in the case of all three patients and subsequently accepted Mrs Lawson as a patient.

He would have been bound to want to defend his decision to replace the bridge. Where his evidence conflicted with that of Mr Kelleher their Lordships had no doubt that Mr Kelleher's evidence was to be preferred.

Having reviewed the evidence in relation to Mr Lawson, their Lordships felt bound to conclude that the finding of the committee in relation to her was out of tune with the evidence to such an extent that the members of the committee must have misunderstood what he was saying. The finding of fact by the committee in relation to Mrs Lawson could not stand.

The finding of serious professional misconduct could not rest on the findings of fact in relation to the other two patients. The finding of serious professional misconduct was explicitly based on the facts found to have been proved in relation to all the heads of charge in relation to all three patients.

Since the committee was wrong to find the facts proved in relation to Mrs Lawson, part of the foundation for the overall finding of serious professional misconduct had gone. In those circumstances the overall finding could not stand.

Their Lordships recommended that the appeal should be allowed and the appellant's name restored to the register.

Solicitors: Le Brasseur J. Tickle; Field Fisher Waterhouse.

Court finds breach of copyright defence wanting

Microsoft Corporation v Electro-Wide Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Laddie

[Judgment April 16]

On hearing a summons for summary judgment, the High Court had to be careful before it deprived a defendant of the opportunity of having his evidence tested at trial: but if, when applying its critical faculties to the whole of a situation, the court concluded a defence to be incredible, it had to say so.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the Chancery Division, in giving summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court for Microsoft Corporation, the plaintiff, against Electro-Wide Ltd and Atlantic Business Systems Ltd for:

1 Injunctions restraining them from (a) without licence reproducing, or issuing to the public, or possessing distributing selling or exposing for sale in the course of business, any substantial part of any piece of operating system computer software in which it owned copyright; (b) infringing any of its copyrights in such software; (c) directing counselling procuring or authorising any other person firm or company so to do and

2 Orders for delivery up of offending material and various types of disclosure on affidavit and

3 An inquiry as to damages for infringement, with a direction that on such inquiry the court should consider whether an award of additional damages pursuant to section 97(2) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 would be appropriate.

Section 3 of the 1988 Act provides: "(1) . . . 'literary work' means any work, other than a dramatic or musical work . . . and accordingly includes — . . . (b) a computer program. . ."

Section 17 provides: "(1) The copying of the work is an act restricted by the copyright in every description of copyright work. . .

"(2) Copying in relation to a literary . . . work means reproducing the work in any material form. This includes storing the work in any medium by electronic means."

Section 18 provides: "(1) The issue to the public of copies of the work is an act restricted by the copyright in every description of copyright work."

Section 105 provides: "(3) In proceedings . . . with respect to a computer program, where copies of the program are issued to the public in electronic form bearing a statement — (a) that a named person was the owner of copyright in the program at the date of issue of the copies . . . the statement shall be admissible as evidence of the facts stated and shall be presumed to be correct until the contrary is proved."

Mr Michael Tappin for Microsoft; Mr Martin Howe, QC, for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said it was common knowledge that Microsoft was the proprietor of a range of computer software, in particular under the names "MS-DOS" and "Windows", sold on a vast scale world-wide.

The defendants were original equipment manufacturers ("OEMs") who bought in parts from a variety of suppliers, built computers to their own specifications, and sold them to the public under their own brand names.

Before a personal computer ("PC") could function it had to be loaded with one or more operating systems. Most PCs sold to the public were supplied with software pre-loaded by the manufacturer.

To load copyright software, which involved copying it on to the hard disk storage system in the PC, would be an infringement, unless licensed by the copyright owner.

Microsoft sold its MS-DOS and Windows products to assemblers and manufacturers of PCs exclusively in the form of a shrink-wrapped "OEM product" containing (i) disks or a CD-ROM containing a copy of the software (ii) instruction manuals (iii) an end-user licence agreement, and (iv) a certificate of authenticity, containing a hologram and bearing an individual number.

Any OEM would have the expertise to make multiple unlicensed copies of software and sell PCs pre-loaded with such but if they did, customers would not get the authentic disks, CD-ROM, manual, end-licence agreement or certificate.

In this action, Microsoft claimed such unlicensed copying and customer sales, relying on transactions with four members of the public and an inquiry agent: a formidable collection of evidence.

The defendants' case for the existence of a fair probability of having a bona fide defence to that were: (i) doubts that they had infringed either section 17 or 18 of the Act and (ii) doubts that Microsoft owned any copyright that might exist in the MS-DOS and Windows family of software.

As to (i), Microsoft responded that unlicensed loading of its software on to those customers' PCs were acts of copying and subsequent supply of PCs, so loaded, acts of issuing to the public. Mr Howe, fastening on the plural "copies" in section 18, contended that an isolated act of issue had intentionally been excluded from the Act.

Even if that were right, which was strongly disputed by Microsoft, the whole thrust of the defendants' case had been that every PC they sold was to meet the specification of the customer to whom it went and, occasional packing errors apart, their firm policy was never to load his PC with Microsoft software without setting aside a complete OEM product for him.

Further, they had claimed they did not have the facilities to make and had never made illicit copies of disks.

That defence had been torpedoed by the convincing evidence of one customer, Mr Jones, who had complained that they had supplied him, instead of the six Windows disks he needed, five clearly non-authentic disks which he had in due course returned to them with the PC, but without eliciting any comment.

His Lordship had found the defendants' version of that episode to the highest degree implausible and their attempt to explain it away, by attacking Mr Jones's honesty, smelt of desperation.

As to (ii), Microsoft relied both on section 105(3) of the Act and on evidence from a paralegal employed to maintain records of Microsoft's copyright properties.

Mr Howe's answer had been that section 105(3) only shifted the burden of proof to the defendants, who were still entitled to put subsistence and ownership in issue.

But in the present context that argument was misconceived. The defendants did not assert that they had a defence under (ii), but only an unfounded, Micawberish, hope that something would turn up.

Finally, in relation to ownership, it was wholly improbable that a company of the size of Microsoft would fail to take the elementary precautions necessary to ensure that it owned the copyright in its major assets.

Solicitors: Covington & Burling; Morgan Bruce.

Judge can devise own procedure in crown court

Regina v Leicester Crown Court, Ex parte Phipps

Before Mr Justice Collins

[Judgment March 12]

A crown court judge acting alone was entitled to exercise the inherent power of the court to regulate its own practices by devising a procedure that was fair and just when there was no existing applicable practice.

Mr Justice Collins so held in the Queen's Bench Division in dismissing the application of Michael John Phipps for judicial review of the decision of Judge Christopher Young at Leicester Crown Court on November 15, 1996, ordering consolidation of his appeal against the refusal of justices to grant a liquor licence with two other appeals to the same court.

Mr John Mitting, QC and Mr Jonathan Gosling for Mr Phipps; Mr Richard Moat for Morlands; Mr Matthew Cowie for Everards, both appellants below.

MR JUSTICE COLLINS said that the judge decided to consolidate the three appeals because they were closely inter-related and he would have had to compare their relative merits.

Section 79(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 stated that the "customary practice and procedure with respect to appeals to the crown court" shall be observed, but it appeared that there was no customary practice.

In *Abse v Smith* ([1986] QB 536, 555) Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, recognised the well established principle that every court had inherent power to regulate its own practices, saying that it was "for the judges collectively, as a collegiate body, to decide whether or not to modify general practices" and to modify by practice directions.

But if no practice existed because the situation was so unusual, as in the instant case, the individual judge would himself have to devise a procedure that was fair and just and met those particular circumstances.

Provided that what he did was not contrary to statute or existing practice, the judge had a right to do it, and if what he did was unfair, an offended party could seek judicial review or appeal against the decision if an appeal existed.

Solicitors: Jeffrey Green Russell; Cole & Cole, Oxford; Harvey Ingram Owston, Leicester.

Paint spraying part of 'car repairs'

Bridgegrove Ltd v Smith and Another

The term "car repairs" included work to car bodies and paint spraying activities.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Mummery) so held on March 20 when dismissing an appeal by a landlord, Bridgegrove Ltd, from a judgment by Judge Graham, QC, in Shoreditch County Court in which he upheld a claim by tenants, Mr Richard Smith and Mr Roy Smith, that premises that were unfit for paint spraying had been negligently misrepresented by the landlord as being suitable for a car repair business.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the tenants, operating a car repair business from premises at 112 Kingsland High Street, Hackney, London, had received complaints from occupiers of neighbouring premises relating to the fumes from paint spraying. They had had to cease their activities inside the premises.

The judge was correct to hold that the tenants had entered into a lease for the premises in reliance on a negligent misstatement by the landlord that the premises were "ideally suitable for any storage workshop use and car repairs".

The term "car repairs" referred to repairs to the body of a car as well as to its mechanical parts and included spraying car bodies with paint.

Scots Law Report April 22 1997 Outer House

Pursuer must specify provision for removing smoke from office

Rae (Agnes) v Glasgow City Council and Another

Before Lord Bonomy

[Judgment March 7]

Section 7 of the Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 was plainly directed at the mischief of foul air in the atmosphere of the workplace. Cigarette smoke which fouled the atmosphere clearly fell within that mischief.

The obligation in section 7 was not to extract impurities, it was to provide ventilation by the circulation of adequate supplies of air. The rate at which the air should be freshened up depended upon the extent to which it was fouled but because the obligation was not to remove impurities, it was not appropriate for the pursuer to rely on a bald statement of the statutory obligation without specifying what would have been effective and suitable provision in the circumstances and what difference that would have made to the inhalation of impurities from smoke by the pursuer.

Lord Bonomy, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held dismissing an action of damages for personal injury brought by Agnes Rae against Glasgow City Council and Strathclyde Joint Police Board.

Mr Neil Brailsford, QC, for the pursuer; Mrs Anne Paton, QC and Miss Jane Paterson for the defenders.

LORD BONOMY said that the pursuer sued for damages for illness caused by her passive exposure to cigarette smoke at work between 1979 and 1994. She averred that she had never smoked.

She had been employed by the defenders' statutory predecessors as a word processor operator in various small offices. She averred that others working beside her and visiting or passing through her office smoked heavily and left lit cigarettes burning, causing sidestream smoke to be given off.

Towards the end of her employment, some steps, which she averred were inadequate, had been taken to try to stop smoking at her place of work. The pursuer's case was pled at both common law and in terms of section 7 of the 1963 Act.

The pursuer's case was that, throughout her employment, no proper and efficient ventilation had been provided for her workplace, no exhaust appliances had been provided to extract smoke, and no provision had been made for securing and maintaining the ventilation of her workplace by circulation of adequate supplies of fresh or artificially purified air. She also averred that no warning had been given to her of the dangers associated with exposure to tobacco smoke.

For the defenders, the fundamental submission had been that the common law case that it was well known within industry and by local authorities that the inhalation of cigarette and pipe smoke carried with it a risk of injury or disease was a bare assertion without support in the pleadings.

The pursuer was bound to specify circumstances from which the court could draw the inference that there was a foreseeable risk of illness against which the defenders should have taken precautions.

The pleadings did not contain specification of such circumstances and there was no attempt to rely on the practice of other authorities. The case depended upon the risk of disease being material which the defenders ought to have known about and taken reasonable care to protect the pursuer from.

His Lordship considered that the risk and the materiality thereof were adequately pled as "a risk of injury or disease to the lungs or respiratory system"; but that it could not be concluded from the pleadings that the defenders knew or ought to have known of those risks arising from passive smoking.

There were no averments of when the risks of passive smoking had been discovered or when and by what means the defenders ought to have known of it. While the pursuer had pled details of certain documents pointing out the hazards, there was no indication of the materiality of the risk or of how the terms of those documents should have come to the attention of the defenders.

Accordingly the common law case failed.

The statutory case consisted of quotation of section 7 of the 1963 Act, followed by a bald statement that the defenders had failed to comply with their duties under that section.

His Lordship had been referred to authorities decided under section 4 of the Factories Act 1937. However those fell to be distinguished, as the reference to "artificially purified air" in section 7 of the 1963 Act distinguished it from the earlier provision.

In the circumstances, his Lordship could see no reason why the words of section 7 should not be given their ordinary meaning. It followed that it might be appropriate to contend for ventilation of the workplace by means of mechanical circulation of the air which might itself be artificially purified by mechanical means.

It had also been submitted for the defenders that the provision required to be interpreted having regard to the mischief to which it was directed, which mischief must be of a type foreseen at the time the provision was enacted. His Lordship did not consider that submission was of assistance to the defenders.

Section 7 was plainly directed at the mischief of foul air in the atmosphere of the workplace; cigarette smoke which fouled up the atmosphere clearly fell within that mischief.

The final criticism of the statutory case was that the pursuer had failed to aver how the defenders were in breach of the statutory provision as she had not averred what they had failed to do.

Counsel for the pursuer had dismissed that as a pleading point; however, his Lordship considered that there was force in the contention that there was a lack of specification.

Section 7 required "effective and suitable provision" which was "for securing and maintaining the ventilation" of every work room by "the circulation of adequate supplies of fresh or artificially purified air". Those expressions were qualitative and qualified the means by which the ventilation was to be secured and maintained.

In his Lordship's view, the obligation in section 7 was not to extract impurities, it was to provide ventilation by the circulation of adequate supplies of air.

The rate at which the air should be freshened up depended upon the extent to which it was fouled, but because the obligation was not to remove impurities, it was not appropriate for the pursuer to rely on a bald statement of the statutory obligation.

The pursuer's pleadings did not address the real issue, namely what would have been effective and suitable provision in the circumstances and what difference that would have made to the inhalation of impurities from smoke by the pursuer.

Therefore the statutory case also failed.

Law agents: Thompsons; Simpson & Marwick WS.

Liability for inherently dangerous work

M. T. M. Construction Ltd v William Reid Engineering Ltd

Before Lord Abernethy

[Judgment January 28]

Where a contractor engaged a subcontractor to undertake works which necessitated an inherently dangerous operation and the subcontractor engaged a sub-subcontractor to undertake that part of the works that was inherently dangerous, the subcontractor was not liable to the principal contractor for the negligence of the sub-subcontractor for in that case the principle that a person employing an independent contractor to undertake inherently dangerous works was responsible for the contractor's negligence rendered the principal contractor himself liable and hence barred him from invoking the same principle against his subcontractor.

Lord Abernethy, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held dismissing as irrelevant an action of reparation brought by M. T. M. Construction Ltd against William Reid Engineering Ltd.

Mr Gordon Reid, QC and Mr Robert Milligan for the pursuers; Mr Gerald Hanrerty for the first defenders; Mr Drew Mackenzie for the second defenders.

LORD ABERNETHY said that it was not disputed that an employer was liable for the negligence of an independent contractor in carrying out hazardous operations.

There was ample authority for that proposition. But the employer in that context was usually the person for whom the work was ultimately being done.

In *Honeywell and Stein Ltd v Larkin Brothers Ltd* ([1934] 1 KB 191, 199, 201) Lord Justice Slesser had used the words "ultimate employer" and "principal employer".

In the present case the ultimate employer was not a party to the action. The pursuers were main contractors to the ultimate employer.

The first defenders had been subcontracted to the pursuers to carry out construction works. The works had required welding operations which the pursuers averred were inherently dangerous and which they averred had caused a fire. The first defenders had subcontracted the welding to the second defenders.

His Lordship had not been referred to any authority in which an intermediate employer, in the sense that the main contractor, the pursuers, and the subcontractor, the first defenders, were in the present case, had any liability in delict for negligent actings of a sub-subcontractor, the second defenders.

In *Duncan's Hotel (Glasgow) Ltd v J. & A. Ferguson Ltd* (1974 SC 191) Lord Stott had said "there is no compelling reason to assume that in delegating part of the work to a subcontractor [a contractor] was to be taken as accepting responsibility for the subcontractor's delicts. His obligations, unlike those of the employer, do not stem from occupation or possession or interest in the end product of the work, but merely from the terms of his contract, and if the terms of the contract do not include an acceptance of liability for a subcontractor's delicts, it is difficult to find any principle of law apt to impose such a liability upon him."

There was great force in what Lord Stott had said. His Lordship was of the opinion that only the ultimate employer had a co-existent liability, together with the party who carried out the works, for the negligent performance of works which were inherently dangerous.

His Lordship was not persuaded that any intermediary in the contractual chain between the ultimate employer and, in the present case, the second defender had any such liability.

If his Lordship was wrong in that, however, then any such liability had to lie with the pursuers just as much as with the first defenders. The pursuers contracted with the first defenders to do work which included the work said to be inherently dangerous.

If the pursuers were correct to say that the first defenders could not delegate their responsibility for the negligent performance of the works to an independent contractor, then no more could they themselves delegate that responsibility.

In that situation the pursuers were not entitled to seek recovery of their whole loss, jointly and severally, from the first defender.

In respect of the second defenders, the action would proceed.

Law agents: Simpson & Marwick, WS; Dundas & Wilson, CS: Campbell Smith, WS.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

NOW PRINTED IN CHARLEROI

Make your family or friends living abroad feel at home

Set up a subscription to The Times for them at **substantial discounts** off local cover price and let them enjoy **early morning delivery on the day of publication.**

SINGLE DAY SUBSCRIPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE.

The Times. Your family and friends are missing the best of quality reading without it.

Same day hand delivery is available as follows: Belgium — main cities; France — Paris and most areas in postcodes 92, 93, 94; Luxembourg — nationwide, same day delivery by post; Netherlands — main cities; Spain — most areas in Madrid and Barcelona; Switzerland — Geneva, Bern & Zurich. Mail delivery is usually one day late. Please call for details on hand delivery areas and mail delivery.

HAND DELIVERY RATES (except Rest of Europe)

Country	Currency	12 months	Savings on cover price	6 months	3 months	Single Day (Mon-Fri) 1 year	Saturday Only 1 year
Belgium	(BFr)	13688	57%	7534	3938	2283	3329
France	(FFr)	1985	61%	1091	571	331	502
Luxembourg (post)	(LFr)	9164	65%	5040	2635	1527	2311
Netherlands	(DFl)	778	56%	428	224	130	188
Spain	(PTS)	75289	29%	41414	21648	12550	17148
Switzerland	(SFr)	809	49%	445	232	135	177
Rest of Europe	(£)	474	n/a	237	118.5	70.04	130

THE TIMES SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

Name

Address (home/office)

Telephone

(*) Debited in £ Sterling at the current exchange rate

Please enter my subscription for:
☐ 12 months ☐ 6 months ☐ 3 months
☐ Monday to Saturday ☐ Saturday only
☐ Other day(s) — Please specify:

Payment by:
☐ Cheque made payable to News International
☐ Credit card (*): ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard/Access
☐ AmEx No: Expiry: /

Signature:

Print Name:

Please return to: News International, Subscriptions Department, P.O. Box 14, Ashton Gate, Ashton Road, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex, England, RM3 8EQ. Telephone: 01708 381 377. Fax: 01708 371 278.

CHANGING TIMES

CYCLING

Obree rides into row over rules

BY PETER BRYAN

GRAEME OBREE, twice the world 4,000 metres pursuit champion and the present British 25-mile champion, has had his entry rejected for the national ten-mile time-trial championship next month. Obree, from Scotland, is the British record-holder for the distance.

He claims that his entry has been refused after a series of misunderstandings and errors by officials of the Road Time Trials Council (RTTC). The RTTC, which controls time-trials in England and Wales, also allows members of clubs affiliated to the Scottish Cycling Union to compete in events south of the border.

Obree claimed yesterday



Obree: furious

that he was originally told he did not need a qualifying time for the ten-mile championship near Barton-upon-Humber on May 11, as he was the 1996 25-mile champion.

"The closing date for entries for the trial is published in this year's RTTC handbook as April 22, and my entry was sent off in good time," Obree said. "I then learnt from the organiser that I needed to be a member of a Scottish club to be considered, as I only hold a British Cycling Federation Racing licence, which is recognised internationally. So I joined the Shetland Wheelers.

"The next problem was to learn that I needed to have a qualifying time achieved since January 1, 1996. I met that by racing last Saturday in Scotland with a winning time of 20 minutes 43 seconds."

However, his effort was to prove in vain. Although the closing date for entries for the ten-mile race was incorrectly listed as April 22 in a calendar printed in the RTTC handbook, the correct date of April 15 was given elsewhere in the handbook.

Obree appealed at the weekend to Phil Heaton, the RTTC national secretary, who confirmed that his entry had not been accepted. Yesterday, Heaton admitted that one reference in the RTTC handbook printed the wrong closing date, adding that the championship rules published elsewhere in the book were quite clear.

"The organiser had received the maximum of 120 riders by the official closing date of April 15 and all of them qualified," Heaton said. "In a non-championship event, reserves may be allowed but that is not permitted for championships."

Obree, Britain's main hope for a medal in the world track championships in Australia in August, was furious. "I have had two of my riding positions banned by the International Cycling Union despite worldwide support and I now find that, on what appears to me to be a technicality, I am receiving similar treatment from the home body.

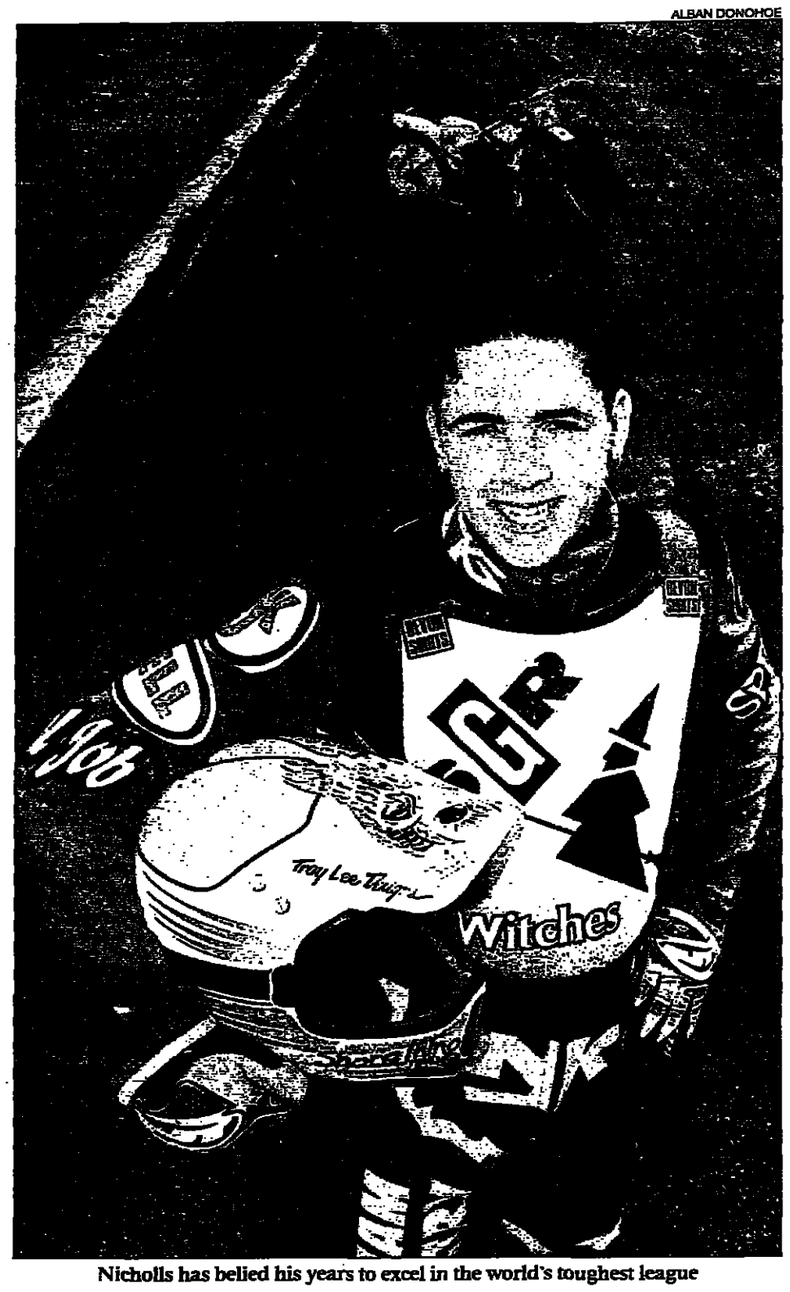
"I had hoped the championship would be the start of a successful comeback season after a series of illnesses last year that affected my performance in the Atlanta Olympics. It's so disheartening and, today at least, I wonder whether it might be worth trying to take legal action against the RTTC."

This year's championship — if it included Obree — would be one of the biggest attractions of the season. Entrants include Sean Yates, a Tour de France time-trial winner in 1988, and Rob Hayles, the winner last year.

Nicholls prefers deeds to words

Tony Hoare talks to an outstanding speedway *rider who is determined* to make up for last year's disappointment

ALBAN DONOHOE



Nicholls has belied his years to excel in the world's toughest league

Scott Nicholls will be keeping his feet on the ground tomorrow night, when he lines up in the British under-21 speedway championship final in Norfolk. It will make a pleasant change from his experience in the world final of the competition last year.

Nicholls, 19, confounded medical opinion by finishing fourth in the final, despite riding with four broken toes in his left foot in a sport that requires riders to drag their left boot on the floor as they take corners. The meeting at King's Lynn tomorrow will bring together Britain's leading 16 riders under the age of 21, with the top eight qualifying for the world championship stages.

They are all hoping to follow in the footsteps of past winners Joe Screen, who was victorious in 1993, and Chris Louis, the 1990 champion, by taking the world under-21 title in the final at Mseno, in the Czech Republic, in August.

Nicholls, who rides for Ipswich, is the youngest rider competing in the newly launched Elite League and has belied his years to produce solid scores in the world's toughest league competition. He is widely regarded as the most promising prospect in England, but superstitious Nicholls shuns such talk.

"I don't like to say too much about what might happen because that guarantees things will go the other way," he said. "I always psyche myself up to do well, but I just don't tell anyone else. Whenever anyone asks me how I'm going to do, I just say I'm going to do my best."

Nicholls, a former British schoolboy champion at speedway's sister sport, grasstrack, is aiming to make up for a mistake in the British final last year which cost him the title.

In his final ride, after four immaculate victories, he trailed in third, believing Stuart Robson, who was second, would overtake the leader, Savalas Clouting. That would have given Nicholls the title, but Clouting kept his lead and then beat Nicholls in a deciding run-off.

"I think I have learnt from that," Nicholls said. "I went into the race with the wrong things in my head and it bugged me. Hopefully, now I will pick up on that."

Despite his lack of outward displays of confidence, Nicholls knows he is a talented rider and only took up the sport professionally after careful consideration. "I've always wanted to be a speedway rider, but I went through a phase when I was about 15 when I had my doubts about going into it properly," he said.

"I wanted to be an accountant. I was thinking about finishing speedway and getting a proper job, but I'm glad I didn't now.

"I enjoy the sport and I want to be the best at it. It must be a big buzz for Billy Hamill [the world senior champion] to say to himself that he is the best in the world."

The senior title will have to wait, but the junior version is a realistic target. "That would be the ultimate for me. Last year, I doubted myself a little bit but finished fourth. Now I know I'm quite good and should be able to do well."

It is as if he feels he has opened up too much by rating his chances when he adds: "I'm not confident, but I have learnt a little bit, so I'm all-out to win." The modest racer's final words are appropriately non-committal: "We'll see what happens."

RUGBY UNION

Popplewell called to account for punching

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NICK POPPLEWELL, the Newcastle and Ireland prop, will appear before a Rugby Football Union (RFU) disciplinary panel next Monday to answer accusations of bringing the game into disrepute. It will be the fourth time that the panel has met since the union revised its disciplinary procedure, and this hearing may well prove the most strongly contested.

The charge arises from the Courage Clubs Championship second division meeting between Bedford and Newcastle on April 5, when Popplewell punched Scott Murray, the Bedford lock, necessitating his replacement and two visits to hospital before Murray could be assured that there was no permanent damage to one eye.

The incident was seen by a touch judge and Popplewell was penalised and shown a yellow card. Subsequently, Newcastle fined the player an unspecified amount but, after reviewing a video of the match, Roy Manock, the RFU disciplinary officer, decided that Popplewell, 33, should appear before a three-man panel at Darlington to determine whether a further penalty should be imposed.

Newcastle are likely to mount a strong defence of their player, who has already been punished on and off the pitch. However, a basic tenet of the RFU procedures, which come into effect when a player has been cited for foul play, when he has been sent off or when he faces a disrepute charge, is that clubs should not effectively "buy" freedom for their players by the imposition of a fine.

Had Popplewell been sent off, he would have been suspended for 30 days. After listening to Popplewell and any character witnesses he chooses to bring, the panel may yet impose a suspension or issue a reprimand.

During the past year, disciplinary panels have suspended Neil Back, the Leicester flanker, for six months for pushing Steve Lander, the match referee, at the end of the Pilkington Cup final last season and Phil Adams, the Bristol lock, for 60 days after his club fined him for foul play. Charles Cusani, the Orrell lock, was reprimanded for accumulating five yellow warning cards, and another such case awaits the panel's attention.

IN BRIEF

Illingworth sidelined by shoulder injury

RICHARD Illingworth, the Worcestershire left-arm spinner, will miss the first month of the cricket season after a freak accident in a Bradford League match. Illingworth dislocated a shoulder while playing for Windhill.

David Leatherdale, his Worcestershire team-mate, who was batting at the time for Farsley, said: "He fell awkwardly and was obviously in a lot of pain."

Scan for Hunte

Rugby league: St Helens will send their centre, Alan Hunte, for a hospital scan to determine the extent of the hamstring injury that threatens to rule him out of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final, against Bradford Bulls, at Wembley on Saturday week.

Drugs ban

Ski jumping: Andreas Goldberger was suspended by the Austrian Ski Federation in Vienna yesterday after his admission that he once took cocaine. Peter Schroecksnadel, president of the federation, said that the suspension would stay in effect until the disciplinary committee of his organisation reaches a decision on how to react.

Lehman on top

Golf: Tom Lehman, the Open champion, yesterday replaced Greg Norman at the top of the world rankings. Tiger Woods lies fifth. Lehman finished joint fourth in the MCI Classic, which was won by Nick Price, of Zimbabwe.

Wales win three

Lacrosse: The Wales women's team has beaten Western Australia 18-0, 22-2 and 15-0 in three warm-up games in Perth before the World Cup in Tokyo on Sunday.

Cooke to retire

Table tennis: Alan Cooke, the England No 3 and losing finalist on Sunday in the Commonwealth championships, is about to retire.

Costa's title

Tennis: Albert Costa, beat his fellow Spaniard, Albert Portas, 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 to win the *Barcelona Open yesterday.*

THE TIMES

IN TOMORROW'S TIMES

FASHION

Belt up. Grace Bradberry looks at the belted coat as a new look for summer.

FOOTBALL

Cup Fever. Can Chesterfield overcome troubled Middlesbrough and go all the way to Wembley?

ARTS

Where now for the Opera House? An interview with Genista McIntosh, new Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House.

STYLE

How to get A Look.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

If you have four of a side suit in your hand with three in dummy, it is not obvious that there is a ruffing possibility. Good players, however, are on the lookout for it. An example:

Dealer South — Love all — Rubber bridge

	♠AK3 ♥Q75 ♦10764 ♣963	
♠10864 ♥K8 ♦QJ8 ♣J875	N W E S	♠J ♥10932 ♦K9532 ♣Q102
	♠Q9752 ♥AJ64 ♦A ♣AK4	

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: queen of diamonds

South opened One Spade, North raised to Two Spades and South went on to Four Spades. After winning the diamond lead, declarer crossed to dummy with a spade and played a heart to the jack and king. West switched to a club. How should declarer play?

The problem with simply drawing trumps is that, if they are 4-1, and the hearts are not 3-3, declarer will make only four spades and two hearts to go with his three minor-suit winners. Correct technique after winning the club is to continue with a heart to the queen, and another heart. If East ruffs, he is ruffing a loser, and declarer may subsequently be able to discard a club from dummy on the ace of hearts, and then take a club ruff.

If West ruffs the third heart, the trick comes back, as declarer can ruff the fourth heart in dummy. And when West has four trumps that is the only way to make the contract. If West ruffs in on the fourth round, dummy overruffs, otherwise the small heart can be ruffed low. Thus declarer makes five tricks in spades, one high heart and one heart ruff, and three in the minors.

☐ The annual marathon at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club was a five-session (165 boards) pairs event, played from noon on Saturday to noon on Sunday, with half-hour breaks between sessions. RESULTS: 1, P Gawrys, W Klapper and M Szczerczak (58.97 per cent), 2, Jason and Justin Hackett (58.43 per cent); 3, M Courtney and U Dumus (58.16 per cent).

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Computer win

On May 3 in New York, Garry Kasparov commences his six-game challenge against IBM's upgraded Deep Blue computer. IBM scientists are now predicting that their much-improved machine brain, which can now see 1,000 million different chess positions every second, will defeat the human world champion.

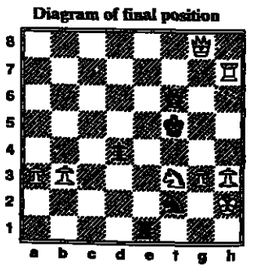
The match last year began sensationally, when Kasparov threw caution to the winds and sacrificed material in an effort to land a death blow on the white king. Sadly, complicated tactics are what computers handle best and all of Kasparov's ingenious attacking ploys were thwarted by Deep Blue's merciless calculation.

White: Deep Blue
Black: Garry Kasparov
Philadelphia 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	c3	d5
3	exd5	Qxd5
4	d4	Nf6
5	Nf3	Bg4
6	Be2	e6
7	h3	Bh5
8	0-0	Nc6
9	Be3	cxd4
10	cxd4	Bb4
11	a3	Ba5
12	Nc3	Qd6
13	Nb5	Qe7
14	Ne5	Bxe2
15	Qxe2	0-0
16	Rac1	Rac8
17	Bg5	Bb6
18	Bxf6	gxf6
19	Nc4	Rfd8
20	Nxb6	axb6
21	Rfd1	f5
22	Qe3	Qf6
23	d5	Rxd5
24	Rxd5	exd5
25	b3	Kh8
26	Qxb6	Rg8
27	Qc5	d4
28	Nd6	f4
29	Nxb7	Ne5
30	Qd5	f3
31	g3	Nd3
32	Rc7	Re8
33	Nd8	Re1+
34	Kh2	Nxf2
35	Nxf7+	Kg7
36	Ng5+	Kh6
37	Rch7+	Kg6
38	Qg8+	Kf5
39	Nxf3	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



This game, a first in the history of chess, was the first occasion that a human world champion had been beaten by a computer under formal and classic tournament conditions.

Chinese chess

The Bank of China Cup to determine the UK champion in the Chinese style of chess (Xiangqi), was played over the weekend.

LEADING RESULTS: 1, Chaung Wenzhang; 2, Chan Fazuo; 3, Wang Shunqi

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

RANDY
a. A Scholar at St John's
b. A tricycle
c. To canvass

RISTLE
a. Gristle
b. To build a bonfire
c. A Hebridean plough

PRAMNIAN
a. Ambulatory
b. Sticky wine
c. A trochaic metre

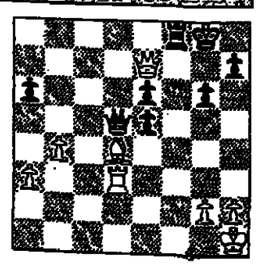
RUMBO
a. Strong punch
b. A card game
c. Christmas cake

Answers on page 52

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Tirard — Rotstein, Cannes 1997, ere Black could play 1 ... exd4 but White would still be in the game. Instead, he found something much stronger. Can you spot his winning continuation?



Solution on page 52

RACING: JOCKEY MISSES GUINEAS RIDE ON ENTREPRENEUR TO ADDRESS WEIGHT PROBLEMS

Swinburn takes break from saddle

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

WALTER SWINBURN, one of Britain's most successful jockeys, yesterday stood himself down indefinitely to combat persistent problems with his weight. He therefore misses the mount on the 2,000 Guineas favourite, Entrepreneur, but maintained he had no intention of retiring.

After a debilitating 15-month period, triggered by the horrific fall he suffered in Hong Kong, the jockey's weight has continued to fluctuate despite his "rigid adherence to a medically supervised diet". The absence of a stable weight has made it impossible for Swinburn, 35, to continue riding without addressing the problem.

"I am hugely disappointed to be forced into making this decision," Swinburn said in a prepared statement. "However, I would not be fair to myself or anyone else if I did not give my body or my metabolism a chance to settle down — and it has significantly failed to do that in recent months."

Unlike jockeys who are natural lightweights, Swinburn has constantly battled the scales. He has survived on a balance of dietary restraint — followed by excess and punishing rounds in the sauna. But the routine, commonly adopted in Britain's weighing-rooms, appeared to collapse for Swinburn since he returned from injuries which required a week of intensive care treatment in February.

Last month he admitted to eating disorders in the wake of an appearance in Newmarket magistrates court — where he was fined £500 for assaulting a restaurant owner and damaging his' property. Swinburn's father, Wally, formerly a champion jockey in Ireland, also spoke of a similar condition in his riding days.

Swinburn's decision — which he said was "in the long-term interests of my career" — comes at a pivotal time. Away from the saddle for six months with severe head and chest injuries, he returned victorious at the first attempt aboard Talathath at Windsor in August. And he rounded off his abbreviated campaign by steering Pilsudski to land the $2 million Breeders' Cup Turf in Toronto six months ago.

While in a Hong Kong hospital, recovering from his fall, Swinburn was touched by the plight of local children seriously injured in an earthquake. He raised £60,000 towards children's causes by a sponsored walk in Ireland, where he described Entrepreneur, trained by Michael Stoute, as his motivating force for the coming season.

Stoute, who has always stood by Swinburn in times of turbulence, yesterday affirmed his support for the troubled jockey. "I have been very aware that life has been a struggle for him recently and I look forward to him coming back when the problem is under control, when he will most certainly have my full support."

Patrons of the Stoute stable also pledged their allegiance. Chris Richardson, manager of the Thompson-owned Cheveley Park Stud, which has a significant presence with Stoute, said yesterday: "I know the Thompson family have always admired and respected Walter. He has always been part of the team and we look forward to him rejoining us when he is ready. He was due to ride Dazzle for us in the 1,000 Guineas and we shall miss his presence."

Dr Michael Turner, medical officer at the Jockey Club, said Swinburn was free to return as soon as he felt ready. "It is inevitable some jockeys will have eating disorders but that's far from saying they can't lead normal lives. It is both debilitating and depressing for people when their weight goes up and down but there's no reason at all why Walter should not be back."

On the 2,000 Guineas front, Ian Balding has booked Michael Hills to ride his Free Handicap winner, Hidden Meadow, and Cash Asmussen is to ride the Stoute-trained Desert Story in the Newmarket classic on May 3.

DAVID GILES



Swinburn, in happier times, celebrates winning on Talathath at Windsor last year on his return from injury

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TAUNT
(2.50 Pontefract)
Next best: Royal Expression
(4.50 Pontefract)

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

WHITBREAD GOLD CUP
Sandown, April 25

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Tote
Amtrak Express	4-1	7-2	7-2	4-1
Avro Anson	4-1	7-2	9-2	9-2
Barton Bank	9-2	4-1	4-1	9-2
Flyer's Nap	6-1	13-2	6-1	6-1
Call It A Day	9-1	15-2	10-1	13-2
Bishops Hall	12-1	14-1	16-1	12-1
Feathered Gale	12-1	12-1	14-1	10-1
Yorkshire Gale	14-1	10-1	16-1	14-1
McGregor The Third	16-1	12-1	14-1	10-1
St Mellion Fairway	14-1	16-1	14-1	12-1
Harwell Lad	16-1	25-1	20-1	16-1

THIS year's Whitbread Gold Cup has attracted a disappointingly small field, but it is nonetheless an extremely tricky race to weigh up.

Amtrak Express, third in the race last season, has been prepared with this in mind and is likely to be sent off favourite on the day. He made an encouraging reappearance when third to Bertone over an inadequate trip at Ascot earlier this month, and seems sure to go well, but runs off the same mark today and may again have to settle for a place.

Barton Bank has been in fine form this season, and followed his Gold Cup second with a deserved success in the Martell Cup at Aintree. However, although his jumping has been good this season, he has struggled with the Sandown fences before and makes little appeal at 9-2.

Yorkshire Gale has a good record at Sandown but, along with Call It A Day, is not certain to stay. Flyer's Nap stays well, but is prone to jumping errors, while Bishops Hall has ability but has been pulled up on his last two starts, most recently in the Grand National.

Feathered Gale appeared to dislike the Grand National fences for the second time running when pulled up in this year's contest. He goes well on a fast surface, but runs off the same mark here as when fifth here last year.

Avro Anson, formerly a high-class hurdler, remains potentially well handicapped over fences. He ran well for one so inexperienced when sixth in the National and will be well suited by the likely firm ground at Sandown. At 9-2 with Ladbrokes and the Tote, AVRO ANSON has solid claims.

PONTEFRACT

THUNDERER

2.15 Henry The Hawk
2.50 Will You Dance
3.20 Standown
3.50 ROKEBY BOWL (nap)
4.20 Forest Robin
4.50 Sterling Fellow
5.20 Rosy Outlook

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.50 Zinzari. 4.20 Another Time.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hill 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified) Horse's name Days since last outing, J if jumps, F if flat, B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. *The Times Private Handicapper's rating.*

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.15 PONTEFRACT APPRENTICE SERIES ROUND ONE HANDICAP (£2,722: 5f) (9 runners)

1	(3)	521204	SQUIRE CORRIE 3 (D,F,G) (Miss N Thesiger) D Chapman 5-10-0	T Siddall (5)	94
2	(9)	050253	CHADWELL HALL 5 (B,D,F,G,S) (D Bowring) S Bowring 6-9-11	F Boyle (7)	98
3	(1)	402714-4	MANOLO B (B,D,F) (Lazzyan Stud) J Berry 4-9-6	P Bradley (7)	98
4	(5)	1604-02	ABLE SHERIFF B (B,D,BF,F) M W Easterby 5-9-4	C Lowther (3)	96
5	(7)	0050-06	PLAYMAKER 76 (D,S) (R H Lee) D Nicholls 4-9-1	Carolyn Bates (5)	97
6	(2)	046-631	SUMMERVILLE WOOD 12 (B,F) (Lady Lade) P Mooney 3-8-13	P Fitzsimons (5)	94
7	(8)	040200-	HENRY THE HAWK 189 (B,D,S) (S Evans) M Dods 6-8-6	C Webb	94
8	(4)	00-3040	DISSENTOR 5 (B,S) (B Eastaby) J Glover 5-7-12	A McCarthy (3)	89
9	(6)	464006	SPANISH STRIPPER 57 (F) (T Satchell) M Chapman 6-7-12	J Fanshe (5)	90

BETTING: 3-1 Able Sheriff, 7-2 Manolo, 4-1 Square Corrie, 5-1 Chadwell Hall, 8-1 Dissentor, Summerville Wood, 12-1 Playmaker, 16-1 others

1996: CAPTAIN CARAT 5-9-0 Claire West (13-2) Mrs J Ramsden 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

SQUIRE CORRIE about 13¼ 4th of 20 to Surprise Mission in handicap at Thirsk (5f, good to firm) CHADWELL HALL 1½¼ 3rd of 19 to Johayro in apprentice handicap at Ripon (5f, good to firm) with DISSENTOR (1lb worse off) 4l 6th. MANOLO ½¼ 2nd of 5 (disqualified) to Johayro in conditions race at Musselburgh (5f, good to firm) with ABLE SHERIFF neck 3rd. SUMMERVILLE WOOD beat Scotsbeury ½¼ in 16-runner apprentice handicap at Folkestone (5f, good to firm). HENRY THE HAWK 10¼ 10th of 19 to Batsleer in apprentice handicap at Hamilton (6f, good to soft) on penultimate start. SPANISH STRIPPER about 7¼¼ 6th of 10 to Braughton's Pride in amateurs handicap at Southwell (AW, 7f)

Selection: MANOLO *(nap)*

2.50 BEAST FAIR MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,853: 1m 2f 6yd) (11 runners)

1	(4)	24-	IN QUESTION 228 (K Abdulla) B Hills 9-0	D Holland	93
2	(3)		STARS CASINOS BOY (Stakes Casinos) M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver	–
3	(11)	3-	TAUNT 239 (Lord Harrington) D Morley 9-0	R Cochrane	89
4	(10)	5	THINK AGAIN 26 (R Craggs) R Craggs 9-0	D McKeown	–
5	(9)	0-	WINTER GARDEN 165 (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 9-0	O Urbina	84
6	(7)	5-	ZINZARI 164 (B Nielsen) D Loder 9-0	L Dettori	92
7	(8)	05	KISSANDY 22 (Mrs A Mallinson) Mrs V Aconley 8-9	M Deering	–
8	(5)		MARYS PATH (R Houlton) S Gollings 8-9	K Fallon	–
9	(6)	50-	MISS RIVIERA ROSE 227 (J Pearce) G Wragg 8-9	M Hills	84
10	(1)		SHILLING (N Fish) A Stewart 8-9	M Roberts	–
11	(2)	62-	WILL YOU DANCE 195 (Mrs M Burrell) J Dunlop 8-9	Pat Eddery	97

BETTING: 3-1 In Question, 4-1 Taunt, 9-2 Will You Dance, 5-1 Winter Garden, 6-1 Zinzari, 10-1 Miss Riviera Rose, 12-1 others.

1996: BACKDROP 8-0 J Reid (5-4 fav) P Chapple-Hyam 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

IN QUESTION 6l 4th of 14 to Pallo Sky in auction maiden at Haydock (1m, good). TAUNT head and neck 3rd of 13 to Redwing in maiden at Newcastle (7f, good). THINK AGAIN 3614¼ 5th of 7 to Kathryn's Pet in auction maiden at Musselburgh (1m 4f, soft). WINTER GARDEN 8½¼ 7th of 20 to Handsome Ridge in maiden at Doncaster (7f, soft).

ZINZARI about 9l 5th of 14 to Moon River in auction maiden at Doncaster (1m, soft). MISS RIVIERA ROSE 9l 10th of 14 to Calypso Lady in maiden at Kempton (6f, good). WILL YOU DANCE ½l 2nd of 14 to Cybertechnology in auction maiden at York (1m, good)

Selection: WILL YOU DANCE

3.20 BENTLEY SELLING STAKES (£2,679: 6f) (12 runners)

1	(6)	640-000	DASHING DANCER 14 (B) (K Nicholls) D Shaw 6-9-7	J Fanning	71
2	(4)	425682-	FINISTERRE 124 (D,S) (Les Femmes Fatales) J J O'Neill 4-9-7	W Ryan	77
3	(7)	0600-00	RESPECTABLE JONES 61 (D,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 11-9-7	D Hayden (7)	–
4	(3)	20505-0	STANDOWN 111 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs C Dealtes) J Berry 4-9-7	K Darley	83
5	(9)	4-35030	THE FRISKY FARMER 68 (D,F,S) (G Bush) W G M Turner 4-9-7	R Havlin (3)	77
6	(12)	000-0036	DEARDAW 24 (G Hopkins) Miss L Siddall 5-9-2	T Siddall (7)	73
7	(5)	00-0580	LUCKY REVENGE 75 (F) (V Greaves) D Nicholls 4-9-2	Alex Greaves	85
8	(8)	40005-0	CHINONTAGAIN 22 (D Dyer) L Lloyd-James 5-8-2	J Fanshe	–
9	(2)	65/6000-	SKELTON COUNTESS 143 (G Bailey) R Hollinshead 4-9-2	F Lynch (3)	–
10	(1)	0	INTERACTION 28 (R Craggs) R Craggs 3-8-10	L Charnock	–
11	(11)	305000-	TREASURE HILL 163 (J Stephenson) D Chapman 3-8-10	A Culhane	68
12	(10)	8-	BOLD ENGAGEMENT 198 (Smith and Allan Dite) M Dods 3-8-5	Dale Gibson	–

BETTING: 3-1 Finisterre, 4-1 Standown, 5-1 The Frisky Farmer, 6-1 Lucky Revenge, 8-1 Skelton Countess, 10-1 Deardaw, 12-1 others.

1996: SMART GUEST 4-9-7 K Fallon (7-1) J Harris 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

FINISTERRE 2½¼ 2nd of 13 to Three Weeks in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd). RESPECTABLE JONES 8½¼ last of 7 to Jucinbrave in seller at Lingfield (AW, 6f). STANDOWN best recent form 2l 2nd of 18 to Orobio in claimer over course and distance (good) THE FRISKY FARMER head and 2l 3rd of 5 to Robin Magic in claimer at Lingfield (AW, 6f). LUCKY REVENGE 8½l 8th of 9 to Jenny's Bob Hire in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 5f). TREASURE HILL 11l 6th to Dmy Dancer in nursery at Leopardstown (7f, yielding).

Selection: STANDOWN

3.50 PONTEFRACT PARK LIMITED STAKES (£5,498: 1m 2f 6yd) (5 runners)

1	(3)	060030-	BILLY BUSHWACKER 83J (F,G,S) (T Child) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-8	K Darley	99
2	(2)	205/345-	ROKEBY BOWL 283 (CD,G) (P Mellon) I Balding 5-9-8	L Dettori	92
3	(5)	02105-0	VAN GURP 10 (G) (Barouche Stud) B McMahon 4-9-8	J Fanshe	94
4	(1)	362-1	STANTON HARCOURT 19 (D,F) (C Humphries) J Dunlop 3-8-7	Pat Eddery	95
5	(4)	012-	CYBERTECHNOLOGY 175 (G) (W Gretzky) B Hills 3-8-5	D Holland	95

BETTING: 9-4 Rokeby Bowl, 3-1 Billy Bushwacker, 7-2 Stanton Harcourt, 4-1 Cybertechnology, 8-1 Van Gurp

1996: HUMOURLESS 3-8-5 L Dettori (7-2) L Cumani 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BILLY BUSHWHACKER neck and ½¼ 3rd of 17 to Clifton Fox in handicap at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. ROKEBY BOWL 8½¼ 5th of 9 to Salmon Ladder in listed handicap at Goodwood (7m 4f, good to firm). VAN GURP 43l 10th of 11 to Hal's Pal in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd). STANTON HARCOURT beat Surfsey 2¾¼ in 6-runner maiden at Leicester (1m 2f, firm) CYBERTECHNOLOGY 2l 2nd of 4 to Squeak in conditions race at Redcar (7f, good to firm).

Selection: ROKEBY BOWL

4.20 CORN MARKET HANDICAP (£3,785: 1m 4yd) (9 runners)

1	(1)	510345-	ANOTHER TIME 180 (D,F,G) (D Sullivan) S Woods 5-9-12	D Biggs	92
2	(8)	020000-	SAULTACH 171 (F,BJ,S) (M Sweeney) R Hollinshead 4-9-9	L Dettori	91
3	(6)	21-5	COURTSHIP 11 (F) (Lord H de Walden) H Cecil 3-9-3	K Fallon	93
4	(2)	2060-00	FOREST ROBIN 11 (Platinum Racing) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-3	J Quinn	87
5	(9)	2050-00	KESTON POND 22 (F,G) (Mrs A Mallinson) Mrs V Aconley 7-9-2	M Deering	97
6	(5)	113215	RAMBO WALTZER 4 (D,F,G,S) (W Swaine) D Nicholls 5-9-1	Iona Wands (5)	97
7	(7)	221430	GENUINE JOHN 4 (G) (Mrs G Spink) J Parkes 4-8-13	R Havlin (3)	89
8	(4)	00000-3	KING ATHELSTAN 10 (F) (I Gosse) B McMahon 8-8-10	K Darley	98
9	(3)	68550-0	SANDBLASTER 17 (G Wood) J Eyre 4-7-10	T Williams	85

BETTING: 9-4 Courtship, 7-2 Another Time, 5-1 Rambo Waltzer, 7-1 Genuine John, 8-1 Forest Robin, 10-1 Saultach, 12-1 Keston Pond, 16-1 others.

1996: MASTER CHARTER 4-8-10 K Fallon (9-4 fav) Mrs J Ramsden 19 ran

FORM FOCUS

ANOTHER TIME about 2¾l 5th of 21 to Eden Heights in handicap at Newbury (1m 2f, soft). SAULTACH 7¼l 8th of 20 to Persian Fayre in handicap at Newmarket (7f, good) COURTSHIP 10½l 5th of 7 to Sakari in conditions race at Nottingham (1m, good to firm). FOREST ROBIN 18l 12th of 17 to White Plains in handicap at Nottingham (1m 2f, good to firm) RAMBO WALTZER about 1¼l 5th of 16 to Marasi in handicap at Thirsk (7f, good to firm) with GENUINE JOHN about 11¾l 12th. KING ATHELSTAN 6l 3rd of 14 to Star Talent in claimer at Warwick (1m, good to firm). SANDBLASTER 6½l 9th of 19 to Bankside Way in handicap at Beverley (1m 2f, good to firm).

Selection: COURTSHIP

4.50 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (£3,688: 2m 1f 22yd) (9 runners)

1	(8)	2060-32	EMBRYONIC 10 (BF,F) (Mrs D Miller) M Tadhunter 5-10-0	J Carroll	94
2	(4)	30022-0	WARNING REEF 40J (Valley Paddocks) P Eccles 4-9-12	L Dettori	93
3	(2)	04600-5	INVEST WISELY 32 (F,G) (A Chappell) M Hammond 5-9-11	J Fortune	91
4	(1)	31212-0	ROYAL EXPRESSION 27 (F,G) (L De La Haye) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-8	A Culhane	90
5	(9)	06245-3	SHIRLEY SUE 11 (F,G) (Greenland Park) M Johnston 4-9-3	J Weaver	95
6	(3)	5211-41	ONEFOURSEVEN 32 (F,G) (J Roundtree) J Eyre 4-8-11	T Williams	95
7	(7)	02121-0	BRODESSA 17 (BF,F) (R Jewon) Mrs M Reveley 11-8-10	K Darley	90
8	(5)	315333-	GREAT ORATION 197 (CD,F) (M Hetherington) F Watson 8-8-4	N Connorton	91
9	(6)	25033-4	STERLING FELLOW 7J (F) (P Moore) D Williams 4-8-4	D Harrison	89

BETTING: 5-2 Onefourseven, 3-1 Shirley Sue, 7-2 Embryonic, 6-1 Royal Expression, 8-1 Invest Wisely, 10-1 Great Oration, 12-1 others.

1996: UPPER MOUNT CLAIR 5-9-2 B Doyle (9-2) C Britain 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

EMBRYONIC 16l 2nd of 7 to Bowcliffe Court in handicap at Warwick (1m 7f, good top firm) WARNING REEF 6l 3rd of 11 to Clerkenwell in maiden at Sandown (1m 8f, good) on penultimate start. ROYAL EXPRESSION 1l 2nd of 9 to Greek Night Out in handicap at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start, with GREAT ORATION (12lb better off) ¾l 3rd. SHIRLEY SUE 1l 2nd of 11 to Kinake in handicap at Beverley (2m, good to firm). ONEFOURSEVEN beat Noutan 1¼l in 10-runner handicap at Doncaster (2m 2f, good to firm) with INVEST WISELY (10lb better off) 16¾l 5th. BRODESSA beat Faugeron 1¾l in 9-runner selling handicap at Beverley (2m, firm) on penultimate start. GREAT ORATION 3½l 3rd of 14 to Alwarqa in handicap over course and distance (good) with SHIRLEY SUE (3lb better off) 2½l 4th. STERLING FELLOW 15½l 4th of 9 to Golden Hadeer in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 7f).

Selection: ENBRYONIC

5.20 SPRING THREE YEAR OLD MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,599: 6f) (8 runners)

1	(6)		AGIFT (Mrs P Robeson) R Johnson Houghton 8-11	A Culhane	–
2	(5)	00-	ELLA LAMEES 185 (Billings & Broughton) W Murson 8-11	K Fallon	–
3	(4)	50-	ROSY OUTLOOK 209 (J Smith) I Balding 8-11	L Dettori	84
4	(3)	0-33	SILENT MIRACLE 14 (BF) (M Khan) M Bell 8-11	M Fenton	89
5	(2)		SWEET PATOOPIE (Mrs B Newton) B Hanbury 8-11	J Stack	–
6	(7)	003-4	TAJREBAH 14 (H al-Maktoum) P Walwyn 8-11	R Hills	91
7	(8)		VERASICA (R Lean) R Hollinshead 8-11	F Lynch (3)	–
8	(1)	00-	YABINT EL SULTAN 171 (G D Imports) B McMahon 8-11	L Newton	–

BETTING: 7-4 Silent Miracle, 5-2 Tajrebah, 5-1 Rosy Outlook, 6-1 Sweet Patoopie, 10-1 Agift, 14-1 Yabint El Sultan, 16-1 others.

1996: PROMPTLY 8-11 L Dettori (Evens fav) M Stoute 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

ELLA LAMEES 10l 9th of 17 to Soviet Star in maiden at Doncaster (5f, soft). ROSY OUTLOOK 18l 8th of 10 to Berrylillum in maiden at Chester (7f, good). SILENT MIRACLE two short-heads 3rd of 7 to Mouche in maiden at Nottingham (5f, good to firm) TAJREBAH 3½l 3rd of 13 to Arapi in maiden at Leicester (6f, soft). ROSY OUTLOOK 2l 2nd of 14 to Embryonic in maiden at Yarmouth (7f, soft). YABINT EL SULTAN 6¾l last of 12 to Trafalgarer in auction maiden at Wolverhampton (AW, 6f).

Selection: SILENT MIRACLE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
H Cecil	15	36	41.7	Pat Eddery	12	32	37.5
A Stewart	6	25	24.0	W Ryan	19	84	22.6
B Hills	5	21	23.8	L Dettori	23	116	19.8
J Dunlop	10	44	22.7	K Fallon	35	182	19.2
B Hanbury	5	25	20.0	M Hills	6	32	18.8
D Loder	3	16	18.8	Alex Greaves	4	31	12.9

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Nottingham

Going: good to firm

2.10 (6l 15yd) 1, Calm Dhu (J Fortune, 7-1); 2, Tarry's Rose (5-1); 3, Rockaroundtheclock (15-2) Skyers Flyer 7-2 fav. 11 ran. 1¼l, ¾l. Mrs J Ramsden Tote: £9.80, £2.40, £1.90, £2.30. DF: £28.10 Trio: £101.70. CSF: £40.45.

2.40 (6l 15yd) 1, Municipal Girl (T Sprake, 33-1); 2, Juddy (32-1); 3, Gunners Glory (5-4 fav). 10 ran. 1¼l, 1¾l. B Palling. Tote: £36.20: £3.90, £5.20, £1.40. DF: £232.20. Trio: £217.30 (part won. Pool of £165.32 carried forward to 5.00 at Folkestone today). CSF: £709.13.

3.10 (6l 15yd) 1, Grey Kingdom (D Meenagh, 3-1 fav); 2, Stephenson's Rocket (10-1); 3, Aquatic Queen (40-1); 4, Robo Magic (9-2) 18 ran. 6l, 1¾l. M Brittain. Tote: £4.90; £1.50, £2.60, £3.10, £1.40. DF: £32.00 Trio: £419.60 CSF: £33.31. Tricast: £771.76.

3.40 (5l 13yd) 1, Double Oscar (Alex Greaves, 11-2); 2, General Sir Peter (6-4 fav); 3, Chief's Lady (33-1) 12 ran. NR: Barwell Boy. Sh hd, 1¾l. D Nicholls. Tote: £4.60, £1.20, £1.30, £8.70. DF: £4.10. Trio: £138.00. CSF: £12.07.

4.10 (1m 6l 15yd) 1, Nabhaan (R Cochrane, 7-2); 2, Sheer Danzig (5-2); 3, Key To My Heart (2-1 jt-fav) Coradini 2-1 jt-fav. 8 ran. ½l, 4l. D Morley. Tote: £5.00: £3.60, £1.80. DF: £4.70. CSF: £12.54.

4.40 (1m 6l 15yd) 1, The Buttenwick Kid (R Winston, 20-1); 2, Samual Scott (9-2 fav); 3, Knisyn (8-1). 14 ran. Nk, ¾l. R Fahey. Tote: £27.80; £5.70, £2.30, £4.10. DF: £185.00. Trio: £540.70 (part won. Pool of £388.41 carried forward to 5.00 at Folkestone today). CSF: £112.44 Tricast: £758.55.

5.10 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, Rasayel (Miss K Chilton, 11-1); 2, Epic Stand (13-2); 3, Squared Away (14-1); 4, Blaze Of Oak (33-1) Fresh Fruit Daily 9-2 fav. 18 ran. 6l, nk. P Evans Tote: £13.60, £4.70, £2.50, £2.60, £7.20. DF: £136.90. Trio: £380.70 (part won. Pool of £434.35 carried forward to 5.00 at Folkestone today). CSF: £81.69. Tricast: £974.65

5.40 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, Dominant Duchess (K Fallon, 8-1), 2, Lady Of The Lake (6-2), 3, Imperial Or Metric (20-1). Freedom Chance 7-4 fav 10 ran. 3½l, 3l. J Hills. Tote: £8.90, £3.50, £1.60, £2.40. DF: £8.40 Trio: £126.30 CSF: £30.11

Jackpot: not won (pool of £72,145.49 carried forward to Folkestone today).

Placepot: £229.80. Quadpot: £38.90.

Brighton

Going: firm

2.00 (5f 59yd) 1, Benningham Blade (Martin Dwyer, 5-1), 2, Soft Touch (12-1); 3, Fivedoclock Shadow (4-1). Mister Bankes 9-4 fav. 8 ran. Hd, nk. K Ivory. Tote: £6.20; £2.00, £2.40. DF: £14.50. CSF: £50.50.

2.30 (5f 213yd) 1, Never Golf Mover (S Sanders, 10-1); 2, Sure Factors (2-1 jt-fav); 3, Nampara Bay (16-1). Nervous Rex 2-1 jt-fav. 6 ran. ¾l, 3½l. T Naughton. Tote: £9.00, £3.20, £1.10. DF: £10.70. CSF: £28.78.

3.00 (6f 209yd) 1, Barbeson (Candy Morris, 9-4 fav), 2, Newsreel (9-2); 3, Enton (3-1). 8 ran. ¾l, 4l. G L Moore. Tote: £2.90; £1.20, £1.80, -£1.40. DF: £11.70. CSF: £11.09. Tricast: £26.97

3.30 (1m 3f 196yd) 1, Petoskin (M Wigham, 5-1); 2, Badouin Prince (11-2); 3, Roman Reel (5-2 jt-fav). English Invader 5-2 jt-fav. 8 ran. Shd, 1¼l. J Pearce. Tote: £7.90; £1.80, £1.60, £1.60. DF: £9.30. CSF: £30.11.

4.00 (7f 214yd) 1, Moon Blast (J Reid, 13-8); 2, Mystic Strand (33-1); 3, Ghayyur (8-11 fav). 4 ran. 4l, 6l. Lady Herries. Tote: £3.10. DF: £15.70. CSF: £22.72.

4.30 (7f 214yd) 1, Satsy Ana (W Ryan, 5-1); 2, Czarna (11-1); 3, Carlys Quest (14-1). Ni Chi Sage 4-1 fav. 15 ran. Nk, nk. B Hanbury. Tote: £3.80, £1.60, £4.40, £6.80. DF: £28.60. Trio: £365.00 (part won. Pool of £164.97 carried forward to 5.00 Folkestone today) CSF: £54.77 Tricast: £985.03

5.00 (5f 59yd) 1, Sharp Pearl (R Hughes, 6-1), 2, Mister Raider (6-1); 3, Justinjurus (7-2 fav). Songsheet 7-2 jt-fav. 8 ran. 1¾l, ¼l. J White. Tote: £9.30, £1.90, £1.90, £1.30. DF: £51.10. CSF: £37.37. Tricast: £132.43.

Placepot: £230.30. Quadpot: £26.10.

Towcester

Going: good to firm

2.20 (2m hdle) 1, Nautical Jewel (J Power, 12-1), 2, Our Eddie (20-1); 3, Paulton (3-1). Boy Blakeney 5-2 fav. 13 ran. 6l, nk. K Wingrove. Tote: £13.50: £5.50, £8.00, £1.50. DF: £106.30. Trio: £192.80 (part won. Pool of £96.04 carried forward to 5.00 at Folkestone today). CSF: £216.84.

2.50 (2m 6f chl) 1, Who Is Equinsome (M A Fitzgerald, 4-11 fav); 2, Volleyball (16-1); 3, Darrys Prerogative (66-1). 9 ran. 6l, 11l. N Henderson. Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £2.60, £10.10. DF: £10.20. Trio: £153.10. CSF: £9.84.

3.20 (2m 6l hdle) 1, Sharp Command (X Aizpuru, 5-1); 2, Hancock, (3-1 fav); 3, Ecu De France (33-1) 13 ran. 10l, 30l. P Eccles. Tote: £5.70; £2.40, £1.30, £13.00. DF: £7.60. Trio: £275.80. CSF: £17.41. Tricast: £403.94

3.50 (3m 1f chl) 1, Supposin (R Guest, 10-1); 2, Lay It Off (7-2); 3, Furry Fox (6-1). Postmen's Path 100-30 fav. 10 ran. 8l, 4l. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £14.70; £3.60, £1.90, £3.10. DF: £34.60. Trio: £202.90 CSF: £47.91. Tricast: £223.87

4.20 (2m 110yd chl) 1, Mr Snaggle (R Johnson, 9-2 jt-fav); 2, Crackling Frost (12-1); 3, Monks Jay (11-2). Nacjed 9-2 jt-fav. 11 ran. 2l, 6l. S Earle. Tote: £5.00; £2.00, £2.70, £2.60. DF: £51.10. Trio: £87.10 CSF: £54.16. Tricast: £284.88.

4.50 (2m hdle) 1, Antiguan Flyer (A P McCoy, 3-1 fav), 2, Steve Ford (7-2), 3, Positives (7-1) 10 ran. 7l, 20l. G Prodromou. Tote: £4.00; £2.00, £1.50, £1.20. DF: £7.50 Trio: £24.80 CSF: £13.70 Tricast: £63.63.

Placepot: £231.90. Quadpot: £35.50.

POINT-TO-POINT DETAILS

AXE VALE HARRIERS (Stafford Cross): Hunt: 1, Jim Crow (M Miller, 8-11 fav). Finished alone. 4 ran Confined: 1, Clanclon finished alone. 4 ran Confined: 1, Clanclon Jack (T Mitchell, 100-30), 2, Gallant Effort; 3, Friendly Lady. 10 ran. Men's Open: 1, Quartster Memory (J Tizzard, 2-7 fav); 2, Anjubx. 2 ran Ladies: 1, Old Mill Stream (Miss P Gundry, 5-2); 2, Arctic Chal; 3, On His Own. 6 ran. Intermediate: 1, Merton's Own (T Mitchell, 4-6 fav); 2, Highway Lad; 3, Elle Flavador. 6 ran Restricted: 1, Ann's Ambition (M Frith, 8-1); 2, False Talk; 3, Royal Turn. 11 ran. Open Mdn (5-7yo): 1, Sue's Quest (P King, 7-2); 2, Fever Pitch; 3, Acetylene. 5 ran.

GRAFTON (Mollington): Hunt: 1, Broad Steane (J Connell, 2-5 fav), finished alone. 4 ran. Intermediate: 1, Nothing Ventured (A Beedles, 7-4 jt-fav); 2, Jury Schoon; 3, Sabre King. 9 ran. Sporting Life Ladies: 1, Stephens Pet (Miss A Dare, 1-4 fav); 2, Making Time. Only 2 finished. 3 ran Confined: 1, Severn Invader (Miss H Gosling, 11-8); 2, Tornier; 3, Sprucefield 7 ran. Land Rover Open: 1, Lucky Christopher (J Docker, 1-7 fav); 2, Walkers Point; 3, Secret Truth. 4 ran. Rest: 1, Brown Baby (G Kerr, 9-2); 2, Villiers Brief; 3, Miss Solitaire. 10 ran. Open Mdn I: 1, Roman Romany (M Rimell, 11-2), 2, Connie Foley; 3, Butadanta. 9 ran Open Mdn II: 1, Cantango (A Sansome, 4-1), 2, The Chairman; 3, Miss Precocious. 9 ran.

HAYDON (Hexham point-to-point course): Hunt: 1, Noneofyourbusiness (T Scott, 2-1 fav), 2, Stanwick Fort; 3, Hawaiian Prince. 5 ran. Confined: 1, Winnie Lorraine (T Scott, 7-1); 2, Will Travel; 3, Worthy Spark. 3 ran. Rest: 1, Jolly Fellow (Miss S Ward, 7-1); 2, Schwayssende; 3, Kings Token. 9 ran. Men's Open: 1, Washakie (J Walton, 7-4); 2, Todcrag. 2 ran. Ladies: 1, Steele Justice (Miss P Robson, 1-4 fav), 2, Schweppes Tonic; 3, Hooky's Treat. 3 ran. Open Mdn (6yo+): 1, Mighty Express (A Ogden, 7-1); 2, Fast Fun; 3, Totmin. 4 ran Open Mdn (5-7yo): 1, Grand Entry (T Barry, 12-1). 2, The Camair Flyer; 3, Miss Accounts. 9 ran.

MEYNELL & SOUTH STAFFS (Sandon): Hunt: 1, Domino Night (E Haddock, 8-11 fav); 2, Bucks Surprise. 3, Sandy King. 4 ran Confined: 1, Mr Wilbur (A Dalton, 5-1); 2, No More The Fool, 3, Worleston Farrier. 8 ran. Men's Open: 1, Back The Road (G Hanmer, 4-5 fav); 2, Injunction;

CRICKET

Test trial provides little new evidence

BY SIMON WILDE

EDGBASTON (final day of four): England A drew with The Rest

THE life of the Tetley's Shield was short and unexciting, and its passing little mourned. The customary blights of April — rain and cloudy skies — returned yesterday to thwart the best efforts of Adam Hollioake and Mark Ramprakash to stage a meaningful finish to the first significant match of the new season. Over four days, the fixture was deprived of 114 overs.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND A: First Innings 453 for 4 dec (M A Butcher 153, J E R Gallian 106, A J Hollioake 70 not out)

Second Innings

M A Butcher lbw b Brown	2
J E R Gallian c Warren b Brown	6
M P Vaughan b Brown	1
A McGrath b Hollioake	62
*A J Hollioake c Warren b Hollioake	39
M A Ealham c Ramprakash b Hollioake	2
†W K Hegg c Maddy b Solanki	1
G Chapple not out	23
D W Headley c Hollioake b Brown	23
Extras (b 2, lb 6, w 4, nb 2)	14
Total (8 wkts dec)	173

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-7, 3-32, 4-109, 5-122, 6-123, 7-123, 8-173

BOWLING: Silverwood 13-1-38-0; Brown 15.5-3-50-4; Tudor 6-2-22-0; Hollioake 9-2-22-3; Solanki 12-5-33-1

THE REST: First Innings 350 for 6 dec (M R Ramprakash 108 not out, R J Warren 50)

Second Innings

D L Maddy not out	5
J S Laney not out	4
Total (no wkt)	9

BOWLING: Headley 1-0-8-0, Chapple 0.3-0-1-0

Umpires: H D Bird and R Palmer

The final day began in sunshine and with a promising climax in prospect. With Ramprakash's side, The Rest, taking the morning honours, it took some unconvincing slogging from Chapple and Headley — who was caught off a no-ball before he had scored — to raise 50 for England A's eighth wicket and set up the game's third declaration 45 minutes after lunch.

Laney and Maddy had just embarked on chasing 277 from a minimum of 52 overs when the rain came. Hollioake's target was a stiff one and the slightest interruption was fatal to the hunt being resumed. Umpires Palmer and Bird — his bruised eye still shining brightly in what by then could only be termed bright gloom — called off play at the earliest possible opportunity, 5pm, their task simplified by the fact that they were without light meters because the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has not yet received a new supply.

In the event, the match, wisely treated as a trial for what England hope are their rising stars, told the selectors little that may be of use in their campaign to regain the Ashes this summer. Butcher and Ramprakash, who shared the match award, and Gallian gave reminders of their competency, and are high in the pecking order should a mishap befall one of England's established batsmen, while Headley is apparently also well regarded. Others may wait longer for preferment.

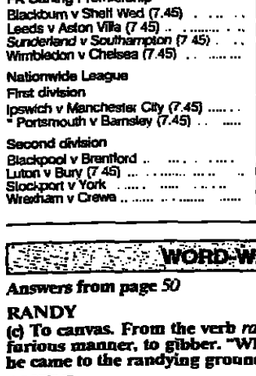
In this respect, the match provided greater encouragement. Ben Hollioake is still a teenager and was playing only his fourth first-class match, but already he looks a player of substance. Having batted with maturity on Sunday for his unbeaten 46, yesterday he produced an excellent spell of lively medium-pace bowling in the hour before lunch.

He claimed three good wickets in five overs — McGrath, Ealham and his elder brother, Adam, who was undone by extra bounce and gloved a catch to Warren, another who did his cause no harm here. Hollioake was educated at Millfield — one of the best cricket nurseries in the country and Alma Mater of, among numerous other active players, Dean Cosker, a team-mate yesterday — and has also played rugby and hockey at regional level.

He concentrated on a full length and a steady line on or outside off stump, which was certainly the area to bowl to McGrath, who scored 62 — to add to his first-innings 46 — without inspiring confidence. The Yorkshireman tried in vain time and again to pull Tudor through mid-wicket and was bowled off a thick inside edge attempting to repeat another of his favourite shots, the cut through gully. Ealham sliced a drive into the hands of gully.

When Hegg was caught at silly point pushing forward to a ball from Solanki on the stroke of lunch, England A were precariously placed, 123 for seven leading by 226.

If this fixture is to continue in its present format, the ECB might do better to reschedule it two or three weeks further into the season, when the players are better into their stride and the appetite of spectators truly whetted. This game attracted paltry attendances, and it had only something to do with the weather.



Ben Hollioake showed good all-round skills

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Oxford's Averis failed to hold this return catch from Keech but still picked up five wickets and champagne

Eighth-wicket pair deny Hampshire

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

THE PARKS (final day of three): Oxford University drew with Hampshire

WHEN it seemed that they would surrender their second innings, and the match, Oxford University denied Hampshire last night. Patel and Scrini batted out the last hour and a half after seven wickets had gone down for 137 and Hampshire's attack, which lacked Connor, who went off with a neck injury after bowling only four overs, was powerless to overcome them.

Patel ended the day with a flurry of boundaries off Whitaker, who was roped in as the seventh bowler when all other ploys had failed. Scrini, who seems to be a bit of a battler, simply declared "they shall not pass", and got his head down. Once again he didn't favour a sweater although it was warmer in the Parks; at any rate, less cold.

Stephenson declared the Hampshire innings on 415 for five, a lead of 172, after Keech had completed a century to go with the captain's. All the wickets went to the bustling seamer, Averis, who later received a bottle of champagne as the students' man of the match; the umpires' choice this, and a nice touch.

Oxford were in trouble as soon as Mascarenhas was brought on. It is hard to pin down this 19-year-old. He was born in London to Sri Lankan parents and brought up in Australia, where he has played club cricket in Perth. Strictly speaking, therefore, he is an Aussie, but it is not a point that Hampshire will press strongly. He took nine wickets on his debut last year, against Glamorgan, and ought to command a regular place this time.

When he dismissed Byrne, who had batted well for his 49, Hampshire nostrils twitched at the prospect of an early night, but they were still bowling at six o'clock as Patel and Scrini refused to budge. After failing narrowly to keep Durham at bay last week, the students will take comfort from this draw and hope that their batsmen start turning decent forties and fifties into the kind of big hundred Ed Smith made for Cambridge at the weekend.

It would be proper to retract yesterday's criticism of the use of mobile phones on the outfield. The student in question, Jamie Haynes, was in fact checking on the health of his father, who is recovering after a serious operation. Best wishes to the father, therefore, and apologies to the son.

Draw brings series to unsatisfactory close

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN GEORGETOWN

MOVING at the slothful pace of the nearby Demerara river yesterday morning, the fifth and final Test match between the West Indies and India meandered towards the sort of meaningless draw that gives five-day cricket such a bad name. West Indies won the series 1-0.

A useful crowd — made vociferous by a potent mix of bright sun and dark rum — watched Carl Hooper and Shivnarine Chanderpaul wheel away mechanically for much of the afternoon at India's unexciting middle-and late-order batsmen.

Mohammad Azharuddin, in his element against a listless attack on a featherbed, had briefly threatened mayhem in the morning — driving, flicking and pulling the bowlers for a succession of boundaries — until his innings was cut short by Edwin Nichols, a local umpire standing in his first Test match.

Azharuddin was given out caught behind off Bishop when television replays showed that the bowler had overstepped the crease by at least two inches, making his dismissal the third in this series in which Indian batsmen have lost their wickets to no-balls.

In the third Test in Barbados, Sachin Tendulkar was out to an uncalled no-ball for 93 in the first innings. In the critical second innings, with an unsuccessful India chasing 120 to win, Navjot Sidhu, the India opener, was also given out off a no-ball.

The loudest criticism in Georgetown, however, continued to be aimed at the West Indies cricket authorities for their lackadaisical approach to protecting Test grounds against rain. Yesterday, Geoffrey Boycott, in the Caribbean as a television commentator, added his voice to a growing clamour for Georgetown to be stripped of Test match status.

In a view that echoes that of Michael Holding, the former West Indies fast bowler, Boycott said that the time had come for Georgetown to be used only as a venue for one-day internationals. He said: "Let them set aside five days for two one-day games, which would allow for reserve days if it rains."

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

University match

Oxford University v Hampshire

THE PARKS (final day of three): Oxford University drew with Hampshire

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings 243 for 9 dec (P G Morgan 60)

Second Innings

R D Hudson c White b Mascarenhas	19
J E Haynes c Kendall b Milburn	0
C G R Lightfoot c Stephenson b Mascarenhas	24
*M A Wagh b Mascarenhas	0
B W Byrne c Aymes b Mascarenhas	49
J A G Fulton c Aymes b James	15
P G Morgan lbw b Mascarenhas	5
C Patel not out	39
†A P Scrini not out	20
Extras (b 1, lb 9, w 8, nb 4)	22
Total (7 wkts)	193

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-35, 3-35, 4-54, 5-102, 6-116, 7-137.

BOWLING: Connor 4-1-9-0, Milburn 16-4-24-1; James 13-2-25-1; Mascarenhas 20-3-63-5, Udal 24 5-12-33-0; Stephenson 5-1-13-0, Whitaker 1 4-0-16-0

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

G W White c Morgan b Averis	14
*J P Stephenson c Patel b Averis	140
K D James c Lightfoot b Averis	53
M Keech c Wagh b Averis	127
W S Kendall b Averis	20
P R Whitaker not out	1
Extras (b 16, lb 8, w 16, nb 20)	60
Total (5 wkts dec)	415

†A N Aymes, S D Udal, A D Mascarenhas, C A Connor and S M Milburn did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-49, 2-179, 3-352, 4-410, 5-415

BOWLING: Averis 30.2-5-98-5; Patel 27-5-99-0; Hudson 21-5-62-0; Byrne 10-1-32-0; Wagh 23-5-50-0; Mather 9-1-50-0.

Umpires: J H Hams and N A Mallender

First Test match

Sri Lanka v Pakistan

COLOMBO (third day of five). Pakistan, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 40 runs ahead of Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA: First Innings 330 (H P Tillekaratne 103, R S Kaluwitharana 57, Saqlain Mushtaq 5 for 89)

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Salim Elahi lbw b Vaas	3
*Ramiz Raja c Ranatunga b Dharmasena	52
Ijaz Ahmed c Dharmasena b Muralitharan	113
Salim Malik run out	58
Inzamam-ul Haq c sub b Muralitharan	12
Asif Mujtaba c and b Muralitharan	27
†Moin Khan b Muralitharan	0
Saqlain Mushtaq not out	51
Mushtaq Ahmed b Muralitharan	26
Shahid Nazir c Ranatunga b Muralitharan	2
Mohammad Zahid not out	5
Extras (b 11, lb 7, nb 14)	32
Total (9 wkts)	370

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-102, 3-219, 4-247, 5-248, 6-248, 7-298, 8-336, 9-349

BOWLING: Vaas 28-3-72-1; Zoysa 10-0-55-0; Dharmasena 48-17-89-1; Muralitharan 53.1-9-98-6; Jayasuriya 3-0-15-0; De Silva 4-0-16-0; Ranatunga 3-1-5-0; Arnold 2-1-3-0

Umpires: U Wickremasinghe (Sri Lanka) and D R Shepherd (England).

Fifth Test match

West Indies v India

GEORGETOWN (final day of five, lunch): India have scored 301 for five wickets against West Indies

INDIA: First Innings

A D Jadeja c Browne b Bishop	8
N S Sidhu c Hooper b Walsh	36
R S Dravid c Hooper b Rose	62
*S R Tendulkar c and b Bishop	83
M Azharuddin c Browne b Rose	31
†N R Mongia not out	13
A R Kumble not out	14
Extras (b 4, lb 5, w 2, nb 13)	24
Total (5 wkts)	301

S Joshi, D Ganesh, A P Kuruvilla and B K V Prasad to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-68, 3-231, 4-241, 5-280.

BOWLING: Ambrose 29-14-36-0; Bishop 29-8-50-2; Rose 30 4-6-86-2; Walsh 38 2-9-62-1, Hooper 7-2-16-0, Chanderpaul 23-7-42-0

WEST INDIES: S L Campbell, S C Williams, S Chanderpaul, B C Lara, C L Hooper, R I C Holder, †C O Browne, I R Bishop, C E L Ambrose, F A Rose, *C A Walsh.

Umpires: E Nicholls (West Indies) and G Sharp (England)

All-embracing tales from the exclusion zone

MICHAEL HENDERSON



Line and Length

At this time of year I tend to think of my good friend Geoffrey — though some might imagine that *friend* is pitching it a bit high, and *good* higher still. Never mind. He has rendered the nation some service simply by dedicating a fair part of his adult life to the noble cause of cheering others up.

Henry Root had nothing on this man. "It has long been my custom," he wrote one Christmas to a big-wig at the Yates *Wine Lodge Company*, "to buy a bottle of your splendid Bismarck port from the off-sales department. I note that the facility has been withdrawn this year, and I find myself looking for some kind soul to help me effect a purchase. Are you such a man?"

At the outset of the Gulf War he banged off a letter to Tom King at the Ministry of Defence indicating that "Mr Lawson Wild and myself shall be arriving in Whitehall next Wednesday at 0900 hours, and although we have our own provisions hamper we shall obviously require quartering, and then transportation to the theatre of war. Please spare no expense on our behalf."

He made these letters public, and many of the replies they provoked were phrased in a playful tone that he would recognise. Clearly, for men working long hours behind official desks, dealing with a merry prankster broke up the tedium of replying to the real cranks, although the Yorkshire Electricity Board was surprised to be told to remove its pylons from "our sacred Lancashire land — it's not for the likes of you."

> 'With each passing year I feel more inclusive'

Then, one day, he struck oil. He wrote to the *Daily Telegraph*, requesting that "as my birthday is coming up soon, perhaps you could find room for an acknowledgement". The next week, among the ballerinas and civil servants, it read: "Geoffrey McMillan, cricketer, 47." To make sure nobody missed the ruse he brandished a copy of the paper at everybody within earshot (most of Lancashire) demanding payment in ale. "There you are, Henderson," he said. "Bat, pad and wicket."

McMillan, "cricketer": now *there is a joke!* He was, like most of us, what John Arlott called "a cricketer in the mind", and the start of a new county season provides a good excuse to commend that underrated breed. Most of us don't play the game regularly, not to an acceptable standard anyway, and most cricket-lovers, even those affiliated to county clubs, no longer watch much cricket in the flesh.

Yet the game still retains its place in many hearts, and occupies a special place in what we can still call, just about, the national fabric. To some, no doubt, the image of cricket is absurdly old-fashioned. To others it is a powerful trigger. It remains a "well-read" game in the broadsheets and, if you visit the kind of taverns I do, there is still plenty of scope for argument, which suggests that people care sufficiently to have strong opinions.

So, when Matthew Engel writes in *Wisden of cricket* being seen as "exclusionist" and "elitist". I think of men like Geoffrey and Roger ("the dodger"), who played their cricket on grounds where those qualities are not greatly admired.

Engel should not despair, even if it is the mood that suits him best. In the weeks to come, young people will be introduced to the game in all sorts of ways. The game, after all, means a lot more than how the England team happens to be doing at any one time.

"The dodger" is worth a mention, too. A window cleaner by trade (which did not admit him to many elites), he was once skulled by Franklyn Stephenson, the West Indian all-rounder, who was the professional that year for Oldham. As he was led off, there was no sympathy for the hapless batsman. All he heard was: "That'll teach you to hook the king."

Another time, playing in a benefit match, he caught the beneficiary brilliantly at mid-on, and couldn't understand why his team-mates were reluctant to share his joy. Geoffrey, who was keeping wicket, put it to him plainly. "Because, you dozy so-and-so, when the fine man we are honouring came in to bat they were passing round the hat and there were dozens of people walking into the ground. When they heard you'd caught him, they put their money back in their pockets and walked right off home again."

Far from being exclusionist I would say that cricket has included me in more comradeship, more innocent fun, more long days, more late nights, and more sense of time having not been wasted than almost anything else. With each passing year, I feel more inclusive. In fact, I feel so happy that I'll even buy the editor of *Wisden* a drink. If I can be sure of getting one back.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

Uefa Cup
Semi-finals, second leg
AS Monaco (1) v Internazionale (3) ...
Schalke 04 (0) v Tenerife (1) (7.45) ...

FA Cup
Semi-final replay
* Chesterfield v Middlesbrough *(at Hillsborough, 7.45)* .....

FA Carling Premiership
Blackburn v Sheff Wed (7.45) .....
Leeds v Aston Villa (7.45) .....
Sunderland v Southampton (7.45) .....
Wimbledon v Chelsea (7.45) .....

Nationwide League
First division
Ipswich v Manchester City (7.45) .....
* Portsmouth v Barnsley (7.45) .....

Second division
Blackpool v Brentford .....
Luton v Bury (7.45) .....
Stockport v York .....
Wrexham v Crewe .....

Vauxhall Conference
Macclesfield v Woking (7.45) .....
Morecambe v Stalybridge (7.45)

Tennents Scottish Cup
Semi-final replay
Kilmarnock v Dundee Utd *(at Easter Road, Edinburgh, 7.45)* .....

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Salisbury; Cambridge City v Ashford, Dorchester v Gloucester (7.45), Halesowen v Stitingbourne (7.45); Sudbury Tn v Cheltenham. Midland division: Ilkeston v Grantham; Moor Green v Sutton Coldfield Town; Shepshed D v Bilston. Southern division: Cinderford v Weston-super-Mare; Newport (IoW) v Bashley; Yate v Fleet T.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Alfreton v Frickley; Bamber Bridge v Blyth Spartans, Gainsborough v Runcorn, Knowsley v Guiseley, Leek v Colwyn Bay. First division: Great Harwood v Leigh; Harrogate Town v Gretna, Lincoln United v Workisop; Stockbridge PS v Congleton; Workington v Alfreton

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v Bromley (7.45), Dulwich v Dagenham and Redbridge (7.45), Grays v Boreham Wood; St Albans v Aylesbury; Sutton United v Heybridge; Yeading v Staines; Yeovil v Oxford City (7.45). First division: Billericay v Wokingham; Canvey Island v Uxbridge, Leyton Pennant v Molesey. Second division: Barking v Wembley, Collier Row and Romford v Metropolitan Police; Dorking v Banstead, Ware v Bedford T; Wivenhoe v Horsham. Third division: Epsom and Ewell v Hornchurch.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Watford v Queens Park Rangers (at Chesham United FC).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton v Tranmere (7.0).

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v Caersws; Holywell v Rhyl.

FA/ HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derry v Corlc Bray v Shelbourne.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Corinthian v Sheppey; Deal v Whitstable Town; Furness v Bockenham, Greenwich v Cray; Herne Bay v Faversham.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridgwater v Tiverton; Chard v Chippenham, Mangotsfield v Calne, Paulton R v Bideford.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Buckingham Athletic v Milton Keynes; Potters Bar v Arlesey; Royston v Hoddesdon; Welwyn Garden v Langford

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Coventry Sphinx v Alvechurch; Highgate v Kenilworth, Knowle v Southam; Richmond Swifts v Massey Ferguson, Wellesbourne v Coleshill.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Brackley v North Leigh; Carterton v Almondsbury.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Corinthian-Casuals v Nethermo.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Holker Old Boys v Penrith, Nantwich Town v Burscough

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Felixstowe P and T v Great Yarmouth, Gorleston v Diss; Halstead v Woodbridge Town; Harwich and Parkeston v Newmarket; Lowestoft v Stowmarket; Wroxham v Fakenham.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Cup: Final, second leg: N Spencer v Desborough

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold v Denaby, North Ferriby v Belper Town, Ossett Albion v Hucknall Town; Pickering v Brigg Town; Pontefract Colts v Hatfield Main.

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship
Fourth division south
Newbury v Weston-super-Mare (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: Commonwealth light-welterweight championship (vacant): Bernard Paul (Tottenham) v Felix Bwalya (Zambia) (at York Hall, Bethnal Green).

SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield).

Ijaz recalled from pavilion to resume innings

BY SIMON WILDE

IJAZ AHMED, the Pakistan batsman, enjoyed a reprieve so late that it possibly contravened the laws of cricket in the first Test match against Sri Lanka, in Colombo, yesterday.

Ijaz was adjudged run out — on 98 — by David Shepherd, the English umpire, following a mix-up with Salim Malik, his brother-in-law. Ijaz played a ball from Muralitharan to midwicket and found himself stranded at the bowler's end as Malik, the non-striker, took a step forward and then turned his back on him.

Shepherd called for K. T. Francis, the third umpire, to examine television replays and Francis, from Sri Lanka, ruled Ijaz out. The next batsman, Inzamam-ul-Haq, was about to face his first delivery when Francis informed Shepherd that further replays showed that Malik, and not Ijaz, was out since he had failed to ground his bat in time.

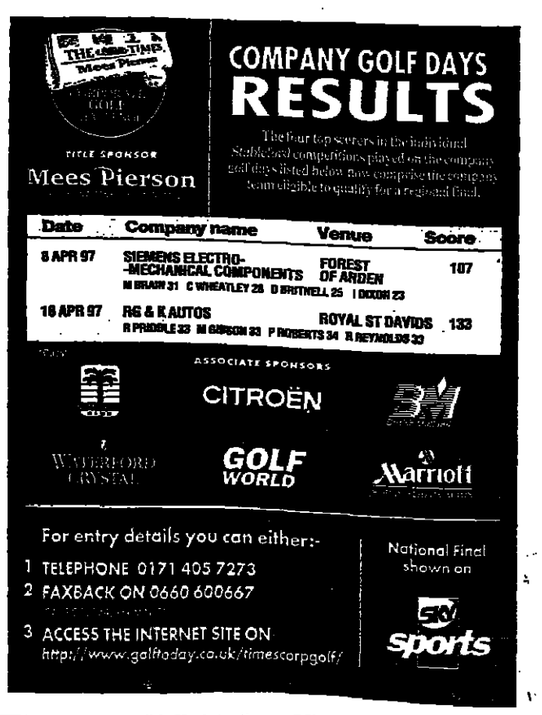
Ijaz was in the pavilion when Shepherd told Malik to leave the field, having first consulted with Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain. Ijaz resumed his innings and went on to score 113, his seventh Test century.

The laws of cricket are ambiguous in such a situations. They state that an umpire may alter his decision, "provided that such alteration is made promptly". But they also permit captains of fielding sides to seek permission to withdraw an appeal "provided the outgoing batsman has not left the playing area".

David Orchard, the South African umpire, caused a furore in the Cape Town Test 15 months ago when he belatedly reversed a decision as play was about to resume. Originally he rejected run-out appeals by South Africa against Graham Thorpe, the England batsman, only to call for television replays after appeals from the crowd and Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, who was later fined for his intervention. Orchard said that he momentarily forgot he had access to replays.

John Reid, the match referee yesterday, who was sitting alongside Francis in the television box, defended the umpires. "Justice has been done and that is what is important, not how long it took," he said.

Pakistan finished the third day on 370 for nine, a lead of 40 runs. Muralitharan finished with career-best figures of six for 98.



BOXING

Paul aiming to climb the ladder

BERNARD PAUL, the lightweight from Tottenham, makes his first assault on a significant title when he meets Felix Bwalya, of Zambia, for the vacant Commonwealth championship at York Hall, Bethnal Green, tonight (Srikumar Sen writes).

As Paul's record of 19 wins, four defeats and four draws suggests, he has not always looked impressive. A good win over the Zambian could lead to challenges at a higher level.

Paul beat a good opponent in Richie Edwards, of Greenford, on points to lift the Southern Area title, but had to pick himself up off the floor first.

Little is known about the Zambian other than that he represented his country in the 1992 Olympic Games, went out in the first stage of the competition and, as a professional, he has won all his ten contests. Even though eight of those contests have been stopped, he does not appear to carry a punch to match Paul's.

The Zambian has not boxed competitively for a year and may not be sharp enough to pose too many problems for the Londoner. But African opponents can never be taken for granted. David Tetteh, of Ghana, surprised Billy Schwer and, last week, Simpwe Pamana, a little-known South African, had Paul Lloyd, of Ellesmere Port, in serious trouble before being stopped by the Briton in the eleventh round. But, tonight, Paul should come through any difficult moments to win in the second half of the contest.

☐ Spencer Oliver, of Barnet, will challenge for the European super-bantamweight title held by Martin Krastev, of Bulgaria, at the Picketts Lock Leisure Centre in north London on May 20.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 50

RANDY
(c) To canvas. From the verb *rand* to rave or rant, to utter in a furious manner, to gibber. "Who advised him, as soon as ever he came to the randying ground, to bray with all his might."

RISTLE
(c) A kind of plough formerly used in the Hebrides. From the *Gaelic risteal, Old Norse ristill*. "The ristle plough seems to have been capable only of making a deep scratch on the soil."

PRAMNIAN
(b) A wine from the neighbourhood of Smyrna, on the western coast of Asia Minor. Sweet for modern taste. "The Pramnian wine (which the same Homer hath so highly commended) continues yet in credit and holds the name still: it comes from a vineyard in the country about Smyrna near to the temple of Cybele."

RUMBO
(a) A kind of strong punch, hangover-maker, made chiefly of rum. Smollett, *Peregrine Pickle*, 1751: "He had provided vast quantities of strong beer, flip, rumbo, and burnt brandy."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Qxd4! wins as if 2 Rxd4 Rf1 is mate. 2 Qxe6+ Kh8 doesn't help.

Robson considers options before Van Gaal moves in



Robson: can cash in on his success

ROB HUGHES



Overseas View

THE worst-kept secret in football's garrulous world is now admitted: Bobby Robson's job as coach to Barcelona is to be handed to Louis van Gaal just as soon as the Dutchman finishes his tenure with Ajax at the end of this season.

Robson should care. This is the 47th year in which he has committed himself body and soul to football and he is virtually guaranteed higher earnings than ever — certainly in many multiples above the £4.50 per week of his apprenticeship down the pit, where his father, Philip, missed only one shift in 51 years.

Indeed, Robson could yet finish his season with Barcelona by winning the Spanish league, the Spanish Cup and the European Cup Winners' Cup. He will probably have to settle for second to Real Madrid in the league, but that is a culpable offence where football is politics and Barcelona represent the politics of Catalan separatist ideals.

He knew all of this when he took the challenge, he knew it when he enticed Ronaldo, the most coveted player in the world, to join him in Spain, yet, last week, as Ronaldo was using the predatory presence of Sergio Cragnotti, the president of Lazio, of Rome, to bump up his Barcelona salary to £5 million net per year, Robson was being crassly abused by a Madrid journalist. "Robson is the worst coach in the world," the malign fellow wrote.

Again, Robson should care. Also in Barcelona, according to Everton, was Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman. Coming from Merseyside, from the place where the Beatles composed that song *When I'm 64*, Johnson was offering another fortune to the 64-year-old Robson to start rebuilding Everton. This time, it appears, the homecoming, if Robson is ready for it, would be to a united boardroom, without the split that became evident when Newcastle United beckoned Robson in the winter.

But he may not come. Reportedly, he has the option, any time he wants it, of a return to the sunnier clime of Oporto, where his team was an unequivocal winner. And who could blame Josep Lluis Núñez, the Barcelona president, for wanting Robson to stay, in a capacity of his choice other than team coach?

Núñez is the most cunning of presidents in a club built on politics, but even he has warmed to Robson's character, to his enduring enthusiasm, integrity and the judgment that brought Ronaldo to the Nou Camp.

"Robson's future," Núñez said last weekend, "depends only on the man himself. It is his decision."

Possibly so, but Barcelona had then lost 3-1 to lowly Real Valladolid. Days later, after Barcelona had beaten Athletic Bilbao 2-0, Robson was told by the press that Núñez had finally admitted Van Gaal was to join Barcelona. Robson blinked, drew on his long experience and responded: "The club are designing a new structure for the future and I am involved in these decisions."

So, Everton wait, FC Porto hover and Barcelona expect a cup or two before decisions are final. Van Gaal, meanwhile, probably comes to the end of an era on Wednesday night. He has been a trainer at Ajax right through the system that produced the finest school professional football has known. That school is now ravaged annually by the departures of irreplaceable talents, migrating under the Bosman ruling to Italian clubs, even without recompense to Ajax.

In addition, half of Van Gaal's starswere grounded by long-term injuries this season ... yet still the club reached the European Cup semi-final, where it had the misfortune to be overrun in the first leg in Amsterdam by unquestionably the best side in Europe, Juventus.

Unless there is the season's biggest surprise in store for the return leg in Turin, this is the end of the road for Van Gaal and Ajax. Even the adulteration of the Champions' League, allowing, from next season, not only the champions but the runners-up of five favoured nations into the most lucrative of tournaments, will not benefit Ajax.

How anomalous it is to continue with the description "champions". Uefa, European football's governing body, confesses that the change in format has a commercial, rather than strictly meritorious, base. The countries that will each have two teams in the event next autumn — Italy, Spain, England, France and Germany — happen to provide 90 per cent of Uefa's income. This money, £122 million over the 1996-97 campaign, represents 31 per cent more than the 1994 World Cup finals achieved and 136 per cent more than the European championship last year brought in.

Now that Manchester United are probable winners of the FA Carling Premiership, there will be only two English teams in the European Cup. Had United finished third in the league and won the cup, then England would have had three entries, but both are unlikely — just as unlikely as Bobby Robson ever settling again for his pit wage of £4.50 for a six-day working week.

FOOTBALL

Wembley key within reach for Juninho

BY PETER BALL

MIDDLESBROUGH have to pick themselves up and go again after their bitter disappointments of last week. Tonight they return to Hillsborough, the scene of their defeat in the Coca-Cola Cup final, for their FA Cup semi-final replay against Chesterfield.

The first contest had enough excitement for half a dozen games. To expect a repeat is perhaps asking too much, but between them Middlesbrough's leg-weary maestros and Chesterfield's romantic outsiders from the Nationwide League second division seem certain to produce more drama.



MIDDLESBROUGH (probable): B Roberts — N Cox, N Pearson, D Whyte, V Kinder — C Hignett, P Stamp, R Mustoe — Juninho — F Ravanelli, M Beck.

CHESTERFIELD (probable): W Mercer — J Hewitt, M Williams, S Dyche, M Jules — T Curtis, P Holland, C Perkins — K Davies, A Morris, J Howard

Referee: D Elleray

The match will be shown live on Sky Sports (starting at 7pm) and highlights will be on BBC1 at 10pm. Commentary will also be on Radio 5 Live

A piece of footballing history, as well as a place at Wembley, is within reach for both teams. If Middlesbrough win, it will be their first FA Cup Final in their 120 years; if Chesterfield triumph, it will be even more momentous as they would become the first club from their level to reach a Cup Final.

But, for Middlesbrough, the outcome may have even more importance. Victory tonight should provide the impetus for a successful relegation struggle; another failure after the frustration of having both this tie and the Coca-Cola Cup snatched from them in the dying minutes of extra time makes it hard to see how they can recover physically and mentally for the battle ahead.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, remains professionally optimistic and he was quick to reject the suggestion of Ron Atkinson, his former manager, that his team will be relegated. "Yes, we have got a battle, but we only need a couple of wins to make us safe," Robson said.

"This is a massive game for us. A win will give the players a great boost for the run-in to the season and give us our confidence back. A win will set us up and then, if we get something at Spurs on Thursday, we will have an eight-day rest."

But Middlesbrough go into the game without a win in six games and, although in extra time they had the first match virtually won, they could easily have been knocked out in normal time had not David Elleray, the referee, ignored his assistant, and controversially disallowed a Chesterfield goal.

"Chesterfield were not defensive, unlike Leicester," Robson added, "they went for the game. It was end to end and John Duncan [the Chesterfield manager] must be given credit for that.

"But I've looked at the video and the stats since. We had twice as many chances with ten men and their goalkeeper was the man of the match."

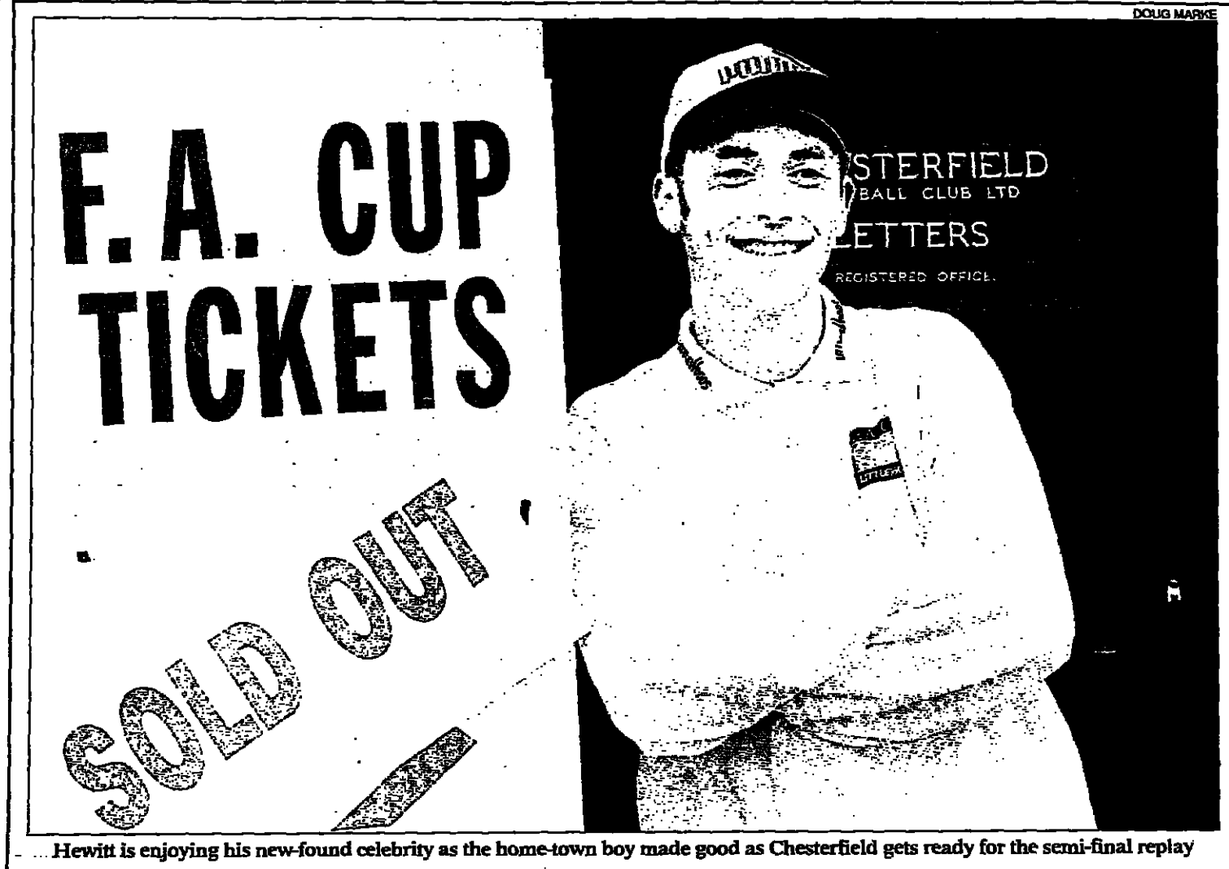
Duncan said: "A lot of people think our chance has gone. We've done a lot of things over the last few years that a lot of people didn't think possible — not just the Cup run."

There is little doubt that Chesterfield have the neutral vote. Unlike Middlesbrough, they will also be fresh but their fate may depend on whether they can keep Juninho away from the danger areas.

The task is again likely to be given to Mark Jules, who at Old Trafford found the task the toughest of his career. "I've never marked anyone as good as him before," he said. "He had everything — touch, good vision, pace and stamina. He's certainly the best player I've ever seen."

The presence of Juninho and Ravanelli, if he is in the mood, should see Middlesbrough through, but Chesterfield's spirit is such that it is hard to bet against them. The Derbyshire club awaits a test this morning on the thigh injury sustained by Billy Mercer, their goalkeeper, and that as much as anything might determine the outcome.

Middlesbrough are more worried about tired limbs than injuries. Mark Schwarzer is cup-tied, leaving Ben Roberts to hold the fort in goal, and Festa and Fleming are doubtful, but the big guns are all present.



DOUG MARIKE

Hewitt is enjoying his new-found celebrity as the home-town boy made good as Chesterfield gets ready for the semi-final replay

Chesterfield salutes its local hero

Richard Hobson finds Jamie Hewitt relishing the next stage of his unlikely FA Cup adventure

For 28 years, Jamie Hewitt passed unrecognised through the streets of Chesterfield. From the formative days, when his mother pushed him around the market square in a pram, through his childhood and beyond 400 appearances for the football club, Hewitt remained anonymous. Then he happened to score a goal.

To say that life has changed in the nine days since his equaliser in the 119th minute of the FA Cup semi-final against Middlesbrough is an understatement. He has conducted more interviews and posed for more photographs than in the previous 12 years of his career put together. He has been on *Football Focus* and teamed up with Chris Evans on *TFI Friday*. In that same market square, people line up to shake his hand.

"Players at our level wonder what it must be like to be Giggs or Fowler, under scrutiny all of the time. I am beginning to get an idea," Hewitt said. "To a certain extent, I am enjoying the experience. If you go into football, you want to be in the limelight because it means you have been successful, but it is strange to think that a single goal can make so much difference."

In other circumstances, Hewitt admits that he would be on the other side of the handshakes. He is the archetypal local boy made good. Les, his father, a part-time player with the club in 1948, took him to Saltergate for the first time as a six-year-old and, when Jamie left the main stand, it was only to join his schoolfriends on the terraces.

"I wanted to go to the away games as well, but hooliganism was around at the time and my mum and dad were not very keen," he said. "Until I was taken on as a trainee at 16, my happiest memory was watching us beat Glasgow Rangers 3-0 in the Anglo-Scottish Cup semi-final in 1981. Ernie Moss scored twice.

"It is funny, but Chesterfield have always been pretty near useless in the FA Cup. We used to joke about it back then, every time a Cup game was due: getting to the second round would be an achievement."

Indeed, Chesterfield had not progressed beyond the fifth round until this season, a fact that helps to explain why each success since the victory over Bolton Wanderers at Burnden Park in the fourth round has been celebrated as joyously as if it were the last.

More than 8,000 people were prepared to sleep rough to buy a ticket for the replay at Hillsborough tonight. The sale was brought forward on police advice and all 18,500 were snapped up within six hours. John Duncan, the manager, said: "To have affected so many people has to be the highlight of the run. This area has had a tough time and people here have to work hard to make ends meet. They have not had anything to cheer for a long, long time. That is what should make the players proud."

Just a long throw from Saltergate stands the Derbyshire headquarters of the National Union of Mineworkers. From the outside, there is little sign of life, yet four years on from the final pit closure in the area, officials are still dealing with claims for compensation for illness and injury. The pit near Staveley, where Hewitt's grandfather, Robert, worked either side of the First World War, is now the site of a leisure park.

No side from what used to be the third division has reached the final. York City, in 1955, and Norwich City, four years later, took their semi-final opponents to a replay. Yet Middlesbrough are vulnerable. They have lost twice since the first tie at Old Trafford and are in a desperate plight near the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, while Chesterfield sit comfortably in the middle of the Nationwide League second division.

Hewitt, pleased that his goal appeared better on television than he realised at the time, said: "We did a lot of chasing at Old Trafford. We were on our knees at the end, but Juninho hardly appeared to breathe during the game. I do not think fitness will be an issue. We will probably play the same way, get our men behind the play and disturb them with long balls."

The draw allowed the blue and white balloons to stay in the shop fronts a little longer. Even the crooked spire of St Mary and All Saints church is playing second fiddle. "It seems as though every article ever written, every bit of film ever made about Chesterfield mentions the spire," Hewitt said. "It has put us on the map and, to be honest, there has not been a lot else here." As Kenneth Wolstenholme might say, there is now.

Challenge of critics is shrugged aside by Sutton

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

CHRIS SUTTON, the Blackburn Rovers striker, has refused to apologise for his "unsportsmanlike" behaviour that led to a late equaliser in the 1-1 draw against Arsenal at Highbury on Saturday. Tony Parkes, the Blackburn caretaker-manager, who initially labelled Sutton as "silly" and "dizzy", has now defended the player's actions.

With Arsenal leading 1-0, Patrick Vieira, the Arsenal midfield player, kicked the ball out of play so that Stephen Hughes, his injured teammate, could receive attention. When the throw-in was eventually taken, Sutton pressured Nigel Winterburn into conceding a corner, from which Blackburn made it 1-1.

Critics pointed out that Sutton should have allowed Winterburn to complete his clearance unchallenged, but he disagreed. "Where do you draw the line with sportsmanship?" he said. "Some players go over the top in tackles and others dive about. I certainly won't be apologising."

Parkes said: "Winterburn had the chance either to control the ball or roll it back to his goalkeeper. He let the ball run away and Chris saw there was an opportunity. It's quite wrong that all the blame should be laid at our door."

Danny Bergara's job tenure at Rotherham United ended yesterday when he was dismissed by the Nationwide League second division club, which has already been relegated. He joined only eight months ago but was unable to halt the team's decline.

Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, has strengthened his squad with the signing of Celestine Babayaro from Anderlecht, of Belgium, for £2.25 million. He has signed a five-year contract and will move to Stamford Bridge at the end of the season. Babayaro, 18, a wing back, scored three goals for Nigeria in their gold medal-winning run at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year.

Ronny Rosenthal, the Israel and Tottenham Hotspur striker, is to leave White Hart Lane at the end of the season. "I have enjoyed playing in England but it is probably time to move on," he said.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

WALNUT, California: Mt SAC relays meeting (selected results, US unless stated): 100m: 1, M Marsh 9.87sec; 2, T Montgomery 9.98, 3, M Greene 9.99. 400m: 1, C Gregorio (Ken) 45.07; 2, A Maybank 45.42, 3, C Harrison 45.59

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Brisbane Lions 15.19 (109) bt North Melbourne 12.11 (83), Port Adelaide 11.17 (83) bt Adelaide Crows 11.6 (72), Geelong 11.19 (85) bt Essendon 11.12 (78), West Coast Eagles 17.10 (112) bt Hawthorn 13.11 (89); Carlton 15.11 (101) bt Collingwood 12.12 (84), Richmond 10.12 (72) bt Fremantle 10.7 (67); Western Bulldogs 13.11 (89) bt Melbourne 13.9 (87), Sydney Swans 18.19 (127) bt St Kilda 12.9 (81).

BADMINTON

REDBRIDGE, Essex: Friends Provident grand slam tournament: Men: Final: P Knowles (Kent) bt D Hall (Essex) 7-15, 17-15, 15-11. Women: Final: K Morgan (Wales) bt J Mann (Warwickshire) 11-3, 11-8

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Baltimore 11 Boston 1, Cleveland 6 Milwaukee 4; Detroit 9 Oakland 2; Chicago 8 New York 7 (11 inns), Anaheim 11 Kansas City 1, Texas 10 Toronto 5, Seattle 10 Minnesota 6

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreal 5 Philadelphia 1 (first game); Montreal 3 Philadelphia 0 (second game); Pittsburgh 5 Cincinnati 3, Colorado 9 Atlanta 2, Houston 3 Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 2 Florida 0; New York Mets 8 Chicago Cubs 2 (first game); Chicago Cubs 4 New York Mets 3 (second game), San Diego 8 St Louis 2.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Toronto 125 Boston 94; Washington 85 Cleveland 81; Detroit 124 Indiana 120 (OT); Portland 100 Los Angeles Lakers 96; Houston 103 San Antonio 99, New Jersey 108 Atlanta 90; Milwaukee 120 Charlotte 100; Utah 113 Sacramento 109

BUDWEISER CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-off: Third leg: London Towers 96 Newcastle Eagles 80. Towers win series 2-1

BOWLS

CAMBERLEY: All-England father and son pairs championship: Quarter-finals: R and G Harlow (City of Ely) w/o M and M Tomlin (Boston) scr; A and M Bantock (Desborough) bt S and R Garland (Ilminster) 24-14, D and J O'Toole (Wey Valley) bt A and M Aers (Angel Tonbridge) 23-9, N G and G W Ward (Avon Valley) bt G and K Skipp (Thornaby) 24-15. Semi-finals: A and M Bantock bt R and G Harlow 24-11; D and J O'Toole bt N G and G W Ward 22-20.

WESSEX LEAGUE: Quarter-finals: Clevedon bt Teignbridge 73-70, Bentham bt Street 105-54, Westlicott bt Bristol 82-65, Christie Miller bt Fosseway 86-68. Semi-finals: Clevedon bt Bentham 80-58, Westlicott bt Christie Miller 105-64. Final: Westlicott bt Clevedon 82-59

CYCLING

TIME-TRIALS: Winners: West Kent RC (Tonbridge, 10 miles) S Yates (Team Clean) 20.22. Chryston Wheelers (Blairdrummond, 10 miles): G Obree-(unatt) 20.43. Welsh CA (Magic Dragon series, Raglan, Gwent, 10 miles): M Postle (Cwmcarn Paragon) 21.06 (course record). Glendale C and AC (Tamworth, 10 miles) D Willetts (Birchfield CC) 21.12. Oxonian CC (Crowmarsh, 10 miles): A Wilkinson (Adidas-SciCon) 21.17. Bolton Clarion (Garstang, 10 miles): R Clough (Sherford Wheelers) 22.03

FOOTBALL

Sunday's late results

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Napoli 0 Atalanta 1

SPANISH LEAGUE: Barcelona 2 Athletic Bilbao 0

GERMAN LEAGUE: VfB Stuttgart 1 Bayer Leverkusen 2

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Gil Vicente 0 Sporting Lisbon 3, FC Porto 2 Rio Ave 2, Benfica 2 Espanho 0, Vitoria Guimaraes 3 Farense 2; Braga 1 Boavista 0, Belenenses 0 Chaves 0, Setubal 1 Estrela da Amadora 0, Leca 1 Maritimo Funchal 0; Uniao de 3, Leca 1 Maritimo Funchal 0; Uniao de 3, Leca 0 Salgueiros 1

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Alost 3 Mechelen 1, Anderlecht 0 FC Bruges 1

WORLD CUP: Concacaf qualifying zone: United States 2 Mexico 2

ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Lanus 2 Racing Club 1, Gimnasia de Jujuy 1 River Plate 1; Estudiantes 2 Huracan de Corrientes 2; Colon 1 San Lorenzo 0; Huracan 1 Gimnasia y Esgrima 1, Rosario Central 1 Ferrocarril Oeste 3; Platense 1 Newell's Old Boys 2; Deportivo Espanol 1 Independiente 1

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: São Paulo championship: Aracatuba 3 America-S J Rio Preto 0, Corinthians 5 Palmeiras 2; International Limeira 1 Santos 1, Mogi Mirim 2 Sao Jose 2; Portuguesa Santista 2 Juventus 1, Rio Branco 1 Portuguesa 0, São Paulo 2 Bantzack bt R and G Harlow 24-11; D and J Botafogo-Ribeirao Preto 0, Uniao São Joao 3 Guarani 1, Rio de Janeiro championship: Americano 1 Vasco da Gama 0, Bangu 3 Volta Redonda 0; Flamengo 2 Flumenense 3; Madureira 0 Botafogo 0

GOLF

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina: Heritage Classic, Leading final scores: (US unless stated), 269: N Price (Zim) 65, 69, 69, 66. 275: J Parnevik (Swe) 72, 71, 66, 66, B Faxon 66, 69, 70, 70. 278: H Sutton 67, 74, 71, 66; L Clements 67, 68, 73, 70, T Lehman 66, 73, 67, 72. 279: J Cook 72, 74, 66, 67, T Watson 68, 70, 70, 71. 281: D Love 70, 73, 74, 64; S Hoch 70, 72, 74, 65, C Stadler 68, 71, 74, 68; W Wood 73 69 68 71, D Martin 71 71 68 71. 282: J Sindelar 70, 75, 70, 67, P Stankowski 73, 68, 72, 69, D Edwards 71, 73, 69, 69, R Fehr 66, 69, 77, 70, S Gump 72, 73, 67, 70. 283: R Medalie 71, 73, 72, 67. Other scores: 284: C Montgomerie (GB) 71, 74, 73, 66, J Haas 74, 70, 69, 71; P Mickelson 68, 72, 72, 72. 290: E Els (SA) 74, 68, 79, 69; V Singh (Fiji) 71, 72, 75, 72

MYRTLE BEACH, South Carolina: LPGA Susan G. Komen International tournament: Leading final scores (US unless stated): 276: H Webb (Aus) 72, 72, 66, 66. 278: L Kane 72, 70, 67, 69; C Johnston-Forbes 69, 73, 66, 70; N Bowen 65, 73, 70, 70. 279: M McGann 69, 73, 68, 69. 280: M Will-Halpin 69, 72, 71, 68. 281: E Hayashida 74, 72, 69, 66, B Burton 69, 73, 72, 68; R Jones 70, 73, 66, 72. Other scores: 282: C Sorenstam (Swe) 70, 73, 69, 70, T Barter 68, 72, 72, 70. 283: P Wright (GB) 72, 75, 70, 66, L Davies (GB) 68, 76, 69, 70. 284: A Sorenstam (Swe) 68, 74, 70, 72. 286: L Lewis (GB) 68, 74, 71, 73. 287: C Hj Koch (Swe) 69, 75, 72, 71, H Alfredsson (Swe) 69, 72, 75, 71, N Harvey (Can) 66, 78, 69, 74. 288: D Coe-Jones (Can) 72, 74, 71, 71, L Neuman (Swe) 73, 74, 67, 74. 289: C Mathew (GB) 73, 75, 72, 70. 291: E Dahlol (Swe) 75, 74, 74, 68. 294: K Davies (GB) 78, 72, 70, 74

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida: PGA Seniors' championship: Leading final scores (US unless stated): 274: H Irwin 69, 65, 72, 68. 286: D Douglass 70, 76, 71, 69; J Nicklaus 71, 72, 73, 70. Other scores: 288: R Charles (NZ) 71, 70, 75, 72. 290: D Graham (Aus) 75, 75, 70, 70; T Horton (GB) 72, 76, 69, 73. 292: G Player (SA) 70, 77, 75, 70; G Marsh (Aus) 72, 75, 71, 74; T Aoki (Japan) 70, 79, 70, 73. 293: B Barnes (GB) 76, 73, 72, 71. 295: L Trevino 75, 73, 72, 75. 297: R Floyd 75, 73, 79, 70

HOCKEY

MEN'S SCOTTISH NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Gordonians 1 Edinburgh University 0; Inverleith 3 MIM 5, Wanderers 4 Kelburne 2; Watsonians 1 Grange 1; Western 2 Merchiston 0

SCOTTISH CUP: Semi-finals: MIM 3 Grange 2; Gordonians 0 Western 0 (Gordonians win 4-2 on penalties)

WOMEN'S SOUTH LEAGUE: Play-offs: 1, Woking 1A 8pts; 2, Slough 8; 3, Teddington 6 (at Basham).

PORTSMOUTH WOMEN'S CLUBS 50TH ANNIVERSARY TOURNAMENT: Final: Cheam 1 Havant 0 (aet, at Alexandra Park)

WOMEN'S SCOTTISH NATIONAL LEAGUE: Aberdeen 1 Gymnasts 2, Hyndland 0 Edinburgh Ladies 6; Western A 0 Grove 4, Western Rack 6 Merchiestill 0, Grove 0 Edinburgh Ladies 1

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cup: Play-offs: Eastern Conference: New York Rangers 3 Florida 0 (best-of-seven series tied 1-1) Western Conference: Chicago 4 Colorado 3 (second OT) (Colorado lead 2-1); Detroit 3 St Louis 2 (Detroit lead 2-1); Edmonton 4 Dallas 3 (Edmonton lead 2-1); Phoenix 4 Anaheim 1 (Anaheim lead 2-1)

KATOWICE, Poland: World championship: Pool B: Belarus 6 Austria 4; Kazakhstan 6 Denmark 4; Holland 3 Poland 1. Great Britain 2 Switzerland 3

MOTORCYCLING

SAN MARINO: World Superbike Championship: Misano Circuit: First round (25 laps, 63.075 miles): 1, P-F Chili (It, Ducati) 48min 44.232sec; 2, J Kocinski (US Honda) 48:58.426; 3, C Fogarty (GB, Ducati) 49:48.354. Second round (25 laps): 1, Kocinski 47:44.390; 2, A Slight (NZ, Honda) 48:16.253; 3, Fogarty 48.24.993. Leading championship positions: 1, Kocinski 79, 2, Fogarty 65, 3, Slight 58

NETBALL

MIDDLESBROUGH: Senior inter-county final: Essex Met 9 Bedfordshire 6. Under-21 inter-county final: North Durham 15 Derbyshire 6

First division final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bedfordshire	7	7	0		0384	235	35
Essex Met	7	6	0		1429	258	32
Middlesex	7	4	0		3342	323	24
Notts	7	4	1		2326	378	23
Surrey	7	2	1		4310	329	19
Warwicks	7	2	0		5312	373	17
Gloucs	7	1	0		6260	357	10
Hertfordshire	7	1	0		6291	379	4

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Sheffield Eagles 18 Leeds Rhinos 30.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	7	6	0	1	217	93	12
Bradford	6	6	0	0	197	100	12
Leeds	7	5	0	2	161	132	10
Salford	7	5	0	2	135	151	10
London	7	4	1	2	208	133	9
Halifax	7	4	1	2	157	130	9
Wigan	7	4	0	3	155	137	8
Warrington	7	3	0	4	159	238	6
Sheffield	7	2	0	5	140	159	4
Paris	7	1	0	6	114	180	2
Oldham	7	1	0	6	135	219	2
Castleford	8	0	0	8	98	211	0

SECOND DIVISION: Carlisle Border Raiders 10 Rochdale Hornets 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rochdale	8	7	0	1	201	144	14
Carlisle	8	6	0	2	200	98	12
Leigh	8	6	0	2	228	166	12
Lancashire Lynx	8	6	0	2	212	166	12
Batley	8	5	0	3	278	143	10
Hunslet	7	4	0	3	235	120	8
York	8	3	0	5	215	200	6
Bramley	8	2	1	5	119	155	5
Barrow	8	2	0	6	152	287	4
Prescot	8	1	0	7	98	276	2
Doncaster	9	0	1	8	131	314	1

AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Penrith Panthers 27 Brisbane Broncos 26

RUGBY UNION

WORLD CUP: Qualifying rounds: European zone: Pool three: Round A: Sweden 48 Luxembourg 5 (in Karskrona). Asian zone: Round A: Sri Lanka 18 Singapore 15 (in Kuala Lumpur). African zone: Round A: The Gulf 53 Botswana 13 (in Bahrain). American zone: Pool two: Round A: Barbados 23 Bahamas 37 (in Bridgetown); Bermuda 52 Barbados 3 (in Bermuda)

SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINAL DRAWS: SRU Tennents 1666 Cup: Nirkaldy v Melrose; Boroughmuir v Heriot's FP. SRU Tennents 1556 Shield: Hawick v Currie; Glasgow High/Kelvinside v Aberdeen GSFP. SRU Tennents 1556 Bowl: Trinity Academicals v Selkirk; Biggar v Ross High

☐ Ties to be played April 27

SNOOKER

SHEFFIELD: World championship: First round: K Doherty (Ire) bt M Davis (Eng) 10-8, R O'Sullivan (Eng) leads M Price (Eng) 5-4, S Davis (Eng) leads D McLellan (Scot) 6-2; B Shaddon (Scot) leads A McManus (Scot) 5-2; D Morgan (Wales) bt G Wilkinson (Eng) 10-5, R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt M Price (Eng) 10-6

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Skegness 30 Long Eaton 66.

SWIMMING

GOTHENBURG, Sweden: World short-course championships: Men: 1,500 free-style: 1, G Hackett (Aus) 14min 39.54sec (championship record); 2, J Hoffmann (Ger) 14:40.67; 3, G Smith (GB) 14.46.85, 5, I Wilson (GB) 14:58.29. 4 x 100m freestyle relay: 1, Germany 3min 14.08sec; 2, Sweden 3.14.22; 3, Australia 3.14.83, 4, Great Britain (A Clayton, S Handley, M Stewart, M Foster) 3:16.47 (British record). Women: 4 x 100m medley relay: 1, China 3min 57.83sec; 2, United States 3:58.94; 3, Australia 4.01.55, 4, Sweden 4.02.42 (European record) Teams: 1, Australia 685pts; 2, Germany 557.5, 3, China 491, 4, United States 455.5, 5, Great Britain 433.

TABLE TENNIS

GLASGOW: Commonwealth championships: Teams: Men: Final positions: 1, England; 2, India; 3, Canada; 4, Australia, 5, New Zealand, 6, Malaysia, 7, Northern Ireland, 8, Singapore; 9, Wales, 10, Scotland; 11, Barbados; 12, Mauritius; 13, Cyprus, 14, South Africa. Women: Final positions: 1, Singapore, 2, England; 3, Australia; 4, Malaysia; 5, Canada, 6, India; 7, Wales; 8, Northern Ireland; 9, Scotland; 10, South Africa, 11, New Zealand; 12, Barbados

TENNIS

TOKYO: Japan Open: Men: Quarter-finals: R Krajicek (Holl) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 6-4, 6-3, L Roux (Fr) bt M Damm (Cz) 6-3, 6-1; P Ratter (Aus) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 6-4, 7-6; T Johansson (Swe) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 6-3, 6-4. Semi-finals: Krajicek bt Ratter 7-6, 6-3; Roux bt Johansson 4-6, 7-5, 6-3. Final: Krajicek bt Roux 6-2, 3-6, 6-1. Women: Semi-finals: A Frazier (US) bt A Ellwood (Aus) 6-2, 6-3, A Sugiyama (Japan) bt K Po (US) 5-7, 6-4, 6-1. Final: Sugiyama bt Frazier 4-6, 6-4, 6-4

BARCELONA: Men's tournament: Final: A Costa (Sp) bt A Portes (Sp) 7-5, 6-4, 6-4

MONACO: Men's tournament: First round: S Bruguera (Sp) bt J Sánchez (Sp) 6-4, 6-2; M Larsson (Swe) bt H Arazi (Mor) 6-3, 6-3; C Rudd (Nor) bt S Schalken (Holl) 6-4, 6-2; S Dosedel (Cz) bt G Kuerten (Br) 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, F Santoro (Fr) bt F Roig (Sp) 6-4, 6-1; J Couner (US) bt D Hrbaty (Slovakia) 6-7, 7-5, 6-4, F Alvarez (Sp) bt K Alami (Mor) 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, B Ulrhach (Cz) bt M Gustafsson (Swe) 7-6, 6-2; A Boetsch (Fr) bt D Sanguinetti (It) 6-2, 6-7, 6-4; C Costa (Sp) bt K Kucaera (Slovakia) 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday April 26

Coupon No. fixture, forecast

FIRST DIVISION

1 Barnsley v Bradford 1
2 Reading v Oldham 1
3 Southend v Huddersfield 1
4 West Brom v Grimsby 2

SECOND DIVISION

5 Blackpool v Bristol R 1
6 Bournem'th v Wrexham 1
7 Bristol C v Plymouth 1
8 Crewe v Chesterfield 1
9 Millwall v Gillingham X
10 Notts Co v Burnley 2
11 Peterboro v Luton 1
12 Rotherham v York X
13 Shrewsbury v Preston 2
14 Stockport v Wycombe 1
15 Walsall v Brentford 1
16 Watford v Bury 2

THIRD DIVISION

17 Brighton v Doncaster 1
18 Cardiff v Carlisle 2
19 Colch'ter v North'pton X
20 Exeter v Chester 2
21 Fulham v Hull 1
22 Hartlepool v Barnet X
23 Leyton O v Hertford 1
24 Mansfield v Darlington 1
25 Rochdale v Cambridge X
26 Scarboro v Lincoln 2
27 Scunth'pe v Swansea X
28 Torquay v Wigan 2

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

29 Altrincham v Kettering 2
30 Farnboro v Hednesf'd X
31 Hayes v Bath X
32 Kid'minster v Southp't 1
33 Macclesf'd v Bi'sgrove 1
34 Morecambe v Slough 1
35 Northwich v Woking 2
36 Rushden v Halifax 1

SCOTTISH FIRST

37 Airdrie v Stirling 1
38 Clyde'k v G Morton 2
39 Dundee v Partick 1

SCOTTISH SECOND

40 Berwick v Clyde 2
41 Brechin v Stenh'muir 1
42 Hamilton v Ayr 1
43 O of Stn v Livingston X
44 Stranraer v Dumb'ton 2

SCOTTISH THIRD

45 Alloa v Montrose X
46 Cowd'b'th v Inv'ness 2
47 E Stirling v O Park 2
48 Forfar v Albion 1
49 Ross v Arbroath 1

DRAWS (home teams) Millwall, Rotherham, Colchester, Hartlepool, Rochdale, Scunthorpe, Farnborough, Hayes, Queen of the South, Alloa.

BEST DRAWS: Colchester, Hartlepool, Scunthorpe, Farnborough, Hayes

AWAYS: Burnley, Preston, Chester, Wigan, Kettering.

HOMES: Barnsley, Blackpool, Bristol City, Crewe, Brighton, Fulham, Leyton Orient, Kidderminster, Macclesfield, Hamilton

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Barnsley, Bristol City, Crewe, Brighton, Hamilton. Aways: Burnley, Preston, Wigan. Draws: Colchester, Hartlepool, Scunthorpe

☐ Vince Wright

Prodigy takes world stage without batting an eyelid

BARRY GREENWOOD



The prolific skills that Katy inherited from her parents have made her the youngest player competing at the world championships in Manchester

Parker bounces to prominence

ANDREW LONGMORE



Just for a moment, a flicker of anxiety crossed the brow of the little girl with the hazel eyes and the freckles. "Mum, I might be the worst player there," she said. Then, content with her mother's reassurance, she returned to her doodling and her gentle contemplation of what all the fuss was about.

Katy Parker has no idea at all, which is how it should be. When the phone rang, confirming her selection for the world table tennis championships in Manchester, the news was so earth-shattering that she could not quite remember her reaction. "I thought it meant I was in the juniors," she said, the Lancastrian accent surprisingly broad.

> 'Only one of my friends knows about it'

And, when she knew it was the seniors and that, at 12 years and 144 days, she would be the youngest competitor from the 108 nations, almost certainly the youngest in her sport to be selected for the world championships, maybe to play in any world championships, what then? A skipped heartbeat, a joyous leap? "Nothing really." Boyzone breaking up or Steve McManaman getting married, now that would be a different matter.

At Kirkham Grammar School, in Preston, there is a notice-board for the school's internationals. Two junior England rugby players are featured, but not Katy Parker. The school has asked for a photo, but Katy has hardly rushed to cash in on her celebrity.

"If I have to do it, I will," she said. "But I'd prefer not to. Only one of my friends really knows about my table tennis. I never really tell them." A cool cookie, Miss Parker. Until there is an opponent three yards away and a table tennis net in between.

Then, wide-eyed innocence is transformed into a bobbing 5½-stone bundle of energy. It is like switching on the light. One minute, a reluctant schoolgirl in a hopelessly big tracksuit — the smallest on offer in the England camp — the next, bounce, whack, bounce, whack and woe betide the hapless opponent, which, for a few inglorious moments, happened to be me.

Only confusion, innate politeness wrestling with competitive instinct, prevented Katy from exposing my fumbling efforts. Her mother reckoned I would get about three points in a real match, none off her daughter's service. Adult players who had first come across the bouncing nine-year-old playing in the Preston Town League had been similarly humbled.

"Sometimes they made excuses — the light wasn't right or the floor was slippery," she said. Mostly they just marvelled, consoled perhaps by the thought that genetic forces were working against them as well.

> 'Mostly, opponents just marvel at her'

Katy's mother is better known as Jill Hammersley MBE, three times a Commonwealth champion, once a European champion, twice a European finalist. Her father, Don, was an England international and the manager of the England men's team during the Eighties, when they were among the best on offer in Europe. Katy has no real appreciation of her pedigree.

"I once took her into the main hall at the European championships in Birmingham," Parker said. "I told her that her mum had been the best player of the lot once. That made her stop and think for a moment." But the pair have been careful not to ram glory days down their child's throat, nor to heap parental expectations onto such tender shoulders. Hammersley cannot watch her daughter anyway. She feels sick if she does.

"I've seen a lot of very promising 12-year-olds pushed too hard," she said. "This is an age when you do things for your parents. We want her to do it because she wants to do it."

At school, Katy has played most sports. Last week she tried high jump. That morning she had been up at 8.30 playing tennis. Parker said: "Sadly, I think she will have to take the decision quite soon. If she wants to become a top player, she will have to start specialising and thinking about the game a little more. I took her to a tournament recently. She had to play seven matches in a day.

"After the first she wanted to go and have a good natter with her mates. I took her to the car and we talked about the last match and tried to prepare for the next. She couldn't understand what I was doing."

She still shakes her pretty brown hair at the indignity of it. That same tournament she went to three games in five of those seven matches and won them all, so what was the problem? "She's very good under pressure," Parker added. "She sticks at it because she's so determined." A quality inherited from her mother, whose defensive style put a premium on durability.

Despite the support, pitching a pre-teen into the maelstrom of the world championships — which start on Thursday — is still a calculated gamble.

Katy will partner Michael Chan, 13, in the mixed doubles. She thinks they will lose. But what happens thereafter is more important. "I'm not worried that she will be frightened by it. She can cope," Hammersley said.

"I've said to her: "You're there for experience and to watch the best players in the world." And one thing is for certain. She may be the youngest, but she will not be the worst.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A conscientious selection

Seven Wonders of the World
BBC2, 7.10pm

Introduced by Sue Lawley as "a brilliant and controversial neuroscientist", Steven Pinker brings the current series to a close. There will surely be another for the format is every bit as durable as that of its distant cousin, *Desert Island Discs*. Pinker, a mop-haired young professor from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, maintains the standard of the programme for fluent communicators who combine sagacity with passion. While milking the theme of his best-selling book, the ability of children to pick up language, he also enthuses about the bicycle and the camera and mounts a convincing rebuttal of John Stuart Mill's theory that, with only eight notes available, the world will eventually run out of music. He concludes with arguably the biggest wonder of all, the mystery of consciousness.

The Great Owl of the Mountains
Channel 4, 8.00pm

The Great Gray Owl of North America is a splendid subject for a wildlife film and the cameraman, Jeff Foott, does not miss a trick. At two feet in height the Great Gray is the largest American owl, and its remarkable hearing and eyesight help to make it a fearsome predator. Foott's film, shot over several months in the woodlands of the Rockies, follows the bird through its cycle of courtship, mating and bringing up its young. Not bothering to build its own nest, it takes one over from another bird. Some of the best footage is of the male scavenging for food. A favourite snack, which the owl swallows whole, is the gopher. The owlets are expected to leave their nests before they can fly, which means taking a hazardous plunge to ground 60 feet below.

Peak Practice
ITV, 9.00pm

The medical drama may have lost a bit of its bite recently (perhaps we have missed whingeing Will more than we thought) but it is determined to bow out of the current series in a blaze of incident. For a start there is the tantalising prospect of doctors Andrew (Gary Mavers) and Erica (Saskia Wickham) finally making an item. It is a busy



Mavers and Wickham (ITV, 9.00pm)

episode for Erica, for she is also setting out to find her real parents and, as if she had not got enough on her hands, her cottage goes up in flames. Meanwhile the other resident medic (Adrian Lukis) has to cope with the release from hospital of her mentally-ill wife. Add to all this a pilot having a seizure in the sky and a rugby thug having a pot at Andrew and it really is a case of blink and you miss it. There is no official word about a new series but viewing figures of 11 million-plus would seem to make it a near certainty.

Witness: Appointment With Doctor Death
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Joanna Head's film about Dr Jack Kevorkian is a model of how to deal head on with the trickiest subject while preserving scrupulous fairness and balance. Kevorkian is the small, wizened 68-year-old from Michigan who believes that people should able to choose to die and has defied the law by assisting in nearly 50 suicides. Head gives us both sides of the argument. We eavesdrop on Kevorkian's consultations and hear from families grateful that he has helped their loved ones to put an end to years of pain and suffering. But Kevorkian is a controversial figure, hounded by the police and the target of demonstrators who dub him "Doctor Death". Ammunition for his critics is provided by a coroner who says that not all of the people Kevorkian helped to die were suffering from a disease. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Spike Jones, The Man Who Murdered Music
Radio 2, 9.30pm

As Clive James proved with his discovery of the gloriously inept torch singer Margarita Pracatan, there is mileage in the dreadful if it is dreadful enough. But Spike Jones was different, because there was a cleverness to his slaughter of good songs that had one hoping it would soon be over, but on the other hand not yet. The Jones technique, explored here in the droll tones of Humphrey Lyttelton, was to start a rendition of, say, *The Blue Danube*, with a few faithful bars and then behave as if all the instruments had caught fire: tempos would double, horns blare and a curious instrument formed by strings attached to a lavatory seat would contribute. Serious musicians listening should plug in their sense of humour.

Sicilian Voices
Radio 3, 9.10pm

The joy of radio is that it has remained a medium which is at its best when it does uncomplicated things. This series is an example: one person with a tape recorder goes to one place and returns with a word picture. The secret is to send the right person and in this case Joe Farrell has proved to be the man for the job. Tonight he looks at Sicily's links with the Cosa Nostra, not in an attempt at dramatic revelation but merely to show how endemic the Mafia is in Sicily. The matter of factness is what impresses: ordinary Sicilians point out the sites of Mafia executions and buried corpses as if they were mildly interesting stone circles on Dartmoor. The underlying threat is thus made all the more real. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

7.00am Kevin Greening 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley, includes at 1.15pm the Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell, includes the Afternoon Lovefeast 4.00 Mark Goodier 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30 Digital Update 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Alan Freeman (3/13) 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 Quincy Jones — The Dude and his Music 9.30 the Man who Murdered Music See Choice 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, includes Racing Preview 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 The Tuesday Match introduced by Simon Mann. Plus news of all the day's other sport 10.00 Brian Hayes's Election Night 12.00 After Hours with Bibi Baskin 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newshour 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Anatomy of Addiction 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 My Generation 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 A Cry in the Dark 9.30 Everywoman 10.00 World Business Report 10.15 The Making of Hamlet 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 On Screen 12.30pm Anatomy of Addiction 1.05 Business Report 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Health Matters 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newshour 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack 4.05 Sport 4.15 Performance 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.15 The World Today 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.30 One Planet 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Megamix 9.00 Newshour 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Meridian Live 11.30 The World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Megamix 1.30 The Farming World 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Discovery 3.30 Meridian Live 4.05 Business Report 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Mike Read 10.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Election '97 1.00pm Lunchtime Concerto: Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf (Viola Concerto in F) 3.00 Jamie Crick 7.00 Classic Newsnight 7.30 Sonata. Tartini (Sonata in G minor, Devil's Trill) 8.00 Evening Concert. Praetorius (Psalms of David); Leonard Bernstein (Chichester Psalms); 10.00 Michael Mappin 2.00am Lunchtime Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 8.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Randel Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air,** with Andrew McGregor. Includes Ockeghem (Missa De plus en plus); Schubert (String Quartet in D); Ravel (Sonatine); Giovanni Gabrieli (Magnificat a 33); Delius (Brigg Fair) Bernstein (Chichester Psalms)
9.00 **Morning Collection,** with Penny Gore. Includes Dvorak (The Noonday Witch); Schubert (String Quartet Movement in C minor); Mozart (Piano Concerto in E flat, No29 K271)
10.00 **Musical Encounters,** with Chris Wines. Includes Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in C); Jean Hure (Cello Sonata in F); Gesualdo (Occhi dal mio cor vita); Petrassi (Inventzione Concertata); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F); Rore (Mentre, Lumi Maggior); Dvořák (Piano quintet in A, Op 81, No2)
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Rachmaninov.** Stephen Hough introduces a rare recording of Rachmaninov's early works and Peter Donohoe looks at Rachmaninov's own approach to performing
1.00pm **Il Giardino Armonico.** The Italian period instrument ensemble performs Biber (Sonata a 6 in B flat); Telemann (Trio Sonata in A minor for recorder, violin and continuo); Vivaldi (Trio Sonata in D minor)
2.15 **Voices.** Iain Burnside introduces a programme recorded by the young Canadian baritone Russell Braun. With Roger Vignoles, piano. Fauré (L'Horizon Chimerique, Op 18); Massenet (Poeme de Souvenir); Ravel (Don Quichotte a Dulcinee) (r)
3.00 **The BBC Orchestras.** BBC Philharmonic under Stephen Kovacevich, piano. Mozart (Piano Concerto No 27 in B flat; Symphony No 39 in E flat) (r)
4.00 **Spirit of the Age** Christopher Page looks at the Icelandic Edda, a collection of stories about giants, dwarves, prophecies and visions. With musical interpretation by Sequentia (r)
5.00 **Music Machine,** Tommy Pearson talks to freelance musicians who prefer the excitement of the unknown to a permanent job
5.15 **In Tune,** with Main Nicolson. Grainger (Green Bushes); Nigel Westlake (Antarctica); Shostakovich (Suite No 1 for Jazz Band)
7.30 **Vienna Old and New.** Nicola Heywood Thomas introduces the last of three concerts given last year at the Point in Cardiff Bay. London Winds under Michael Collins. Strauss (Serenade Op 7); Schoenberg (Wind Quintet); Gottfried von Einem (Wing Quintet); Mozart (Serenade in E flat)
9.10 **Sicilian Voices: The Family.** See Choice
9.30 **The BBC Orchestras.** A concert given at the 1995 International Society of Contemporary Music Festival in Essen Germany. BBC Symphony Orcestra under Peter Eotvos, with Marta Fabian, cimbalom. Debussy (Jeux); Eotvos (Psychokosmos); Henze (Symphony No 7)
10.45 **Night Waves.** Renaissance scholar Stephen Greenblatt talks to Richard Coles, the general editor of *The Norton Shakespeare*, on the British publication of the works. They discuss how a fuller historical examination of early-modern England can illuminate the best-known plays.
11.30 **Composers of the Week: Forgotten Giants of 18th-Century Opera** (r)
12.30am **Jazz Notes.** Digby Fairweather presents a session by the new band Septplace featuring Andrew Cleyndert, bass, John Donaldson, piano, Chris Garrick, violin
1.00 **Through the Night,** with Donald Macleod. Includes Haydn (String Quartet in F, Op50 No5); Bartok (String Quartet, No5); 5.00am Sequence

RADIO 4

5.55am **Shipping Forecast (LW)** 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day
9.00 **News** 9.05 **Election Call.** Peter Sissons puts listeners' questions to Alex Salmond of the Scottish National Party
10.00 **News; Walston Goes Walkabout (FM).** Oliver Walston visits St Pierre, the last French outpost in North America (3/6)
10.00 **Daily Service (LW)** 10.15 **On This Day (LW)**
10.30 **Woman's Hour,** with Jenni Murray. Miriam Margolyes reads Henry James' The Portrait of a Lady
11.30 **All in the Mind.** Professor Anthony Clare tries to discover what effect safer cars have on our driving
12.00 **News; You and Yours,** with Lesley Riddoch
12.25pm **Word of Mouth: The Naming of Parts.** Russell Davies explores words and the way we speak. How to name something new, something secret, something sweet-smelling and something old (4/6) 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One,** with Nick Clarke
1.40 **The Archers (r)** 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; Books and Company.** Horticultural themes in the Book of Genesis and modern poetry (7/9) (r)
2.30 **Comparing Notes with Brian Kay.** In the first of a new series, Brian Kay talks to the Welsh bass-baritone Bryn Terfel, whose rise to international fame has encompassed the worlds of opera, the concert hall and recorded lieder and songs
3.00 **The Afternoon Shift,** with Daire Brehan
4.00 **News** 4.05 **Kaleidoscope.** Paul Vaughan reads the new novel from the reclusive American author Thomas Pynchon amd joins Harry Ritchie for a tour round the last remnants of the British Empire
4.45 **Short Story: Umberto Verdi, Chimney Sweep.** by Bernard MacLaverty. A bored housewife sees a chimney sweep as the answer to all her problems. Read by Susie Kelly
5.00 **PM,** with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 **No Commitments.** Drama with Rosemary Leach and Nicola Pagett. Victoria is convinced that Anna is having a secret affair (6/6) (r)
7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**
7.20 **File on Four** Major issues, changing attitudes and important events at home and abroad
8.00 **Science Now.** Alun Lewis presents a review of the week's developments and discoveries in the world of science (r)
8.30 **The New Sexual Nature: Playing the Game.** Dr Gillian Rice asks the experts whether monogamy is a natural form of behaviour (4/4) (r)
9.00 **In Touch.** Peter White with news, views and information for the visual impaired
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight,** with Isabel Hilton
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: One of Ours,** by Willa Cather. Read by Ian Porter (2/12) (r)
11.00 **Mediumwave.** The week's events in the media with Vincent Hanna (r)
11.30 **A Night with . . George Melly.** Melly recalls performing and partying and his passion for fishing at night. With music from Cab Calloway and Mussorgsky and words from Charles Dickens and Philip Larkin (r)
12.00 **News** incl 12.27am approx Weather
12.30am **The Late Book: High Fidelity,** by Nick Hornby. Read by Alan Davies (2/10)
12.48 **Shipping Forecast** 1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Why Pennies Mean Profits

Make an average gain of 412% on shares costing less than £1

That's exactly what you could have done if you had invested in the Top 5 performers on the Stock Market in just 12 months* . . . and significantly, they were all Penny Shares! Latest figures prove that low-cost shares outperform all other shares. Over the past 5 years, more than 75% of the top movers on the Stock Market were Penny Shares.

Now you can seize these winners for yourself! Penny Share Guide is Britain's No.1 newsletter for tipping those companies that have the most explosive potential for growth and profit . . . and you can claim your FREE copy right now!

● NEW OFFER ●

For your free copy of the latest Penny Share Guide and a comprehensive report on the Penny Share scene plus details of how you can claim a free copy of 'The Investor's Guide to How the Stock Market Really Works' published by the Financial Times/Pitman Publishing, worth £19.99, call us FREE on 0500 823 873 NOW or simply fill in the coupon below and return it to: Penny Share Guide, FREEPOST NW 3521, Edinburgh EH4 0FX (no stamp required).

* Mid-price to mid-price, excluding dealing costs and dividends. Fifteen Businesses Top 20 Shares 01/01/91-01/01/96. The past is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Investments in smaller companies generally have a higher risk factor and it can be more difficult to realise such an investment. This investment is not suitable for everyone. If you have any doubt, you should obtain expert advice.

Yes! Please rush me a FREE copy of the latest Penny Share Guide and the FREE Penny Share market report pack, please also send me details of a special half-price offer for one year's subscription to the Penny Share Guide, including how I can claim my FREE investment book worth £19.99.

Name: _____ Mr/Mrs/Ms

Address: _____

_____

_____ Postcode: _____

Send to: Penny Share Guide, FREEPOST NW3521, Edinburgh EH4 0FX (no stamp required) GDLC

FREEPHONE: 0500 823 873

Approved by Pitman Investor Publications, Regulated by the Financial Investment Authority. If you do not wish to receive further promotions, unless from Pitman Investor Publications or other carefully selected companies in the Investor group, tick box. ☐

TENNIS

Courier's tensions surfacing

JIM COURIER was pushed to the limit by a dogged opponent and a swirling wind before winning 6-7, 7-5, 6-4 against Dominik Hrbaty, 19, of Slovakia, in 2½ hours in the first round of the Monte Carlo Open yesterday.

"His yelling and screaming reminded me of when I first came onto the tour," Courier said. "It helped motivate me. He didn't allow you to play safe and I'm just glad I've got through this first match after coming here from hard courts."

Courier, the No 13 seed, double-faulted three times on match point to lose the eighth game of the third set, but then won the tenth game, for the match, to love. Apart from his opening service game, it was the only other time he won a game to love. His next opponent will be Mark Philippoussis, of Australia, or Herman Gumy, of Australia.

Sergi Bruguera, like Courier a former French Open champion, showed unaccustomed confidence at the net to beat Javier Sanchez, a fellow Spainiard, 6-4, 6-1. "I'm much fitter this year and have had some good hard-court results to give me confidence," he said.

He faces a possible third-round encounter with Thomas Muster, the world No 2 from Austria, who has won this tournament for the past two years and has a 12-3 record against Bruguera. Muster had a first-round bye and will play either Francisco Roig, of Spain, or Fabrice Santoro, of France, in the second round.

Results, page 53

SWIMMING

Calleja appeals for calm waters

FROM CRAIG LORD IN GOTHENBURG

THE celebrations will be short-lived for a world title and bronze medal for two of Dave Calleja's swimmers at the world short-course championships over the weekend — the coach is issuing an ultimatum: do it my way, or allow distractions to drive the most successful sports triangle in British swimming to divorce.

It is not that the Stockport coach is a killjoy, but, as he left the Scandinavium here — scene of triumph for James



Hickman: writing articles

Hickman, world short-course champion over 200 metres butterfly, and Graeme Smith, who added a bronze medal over 1,500 metres freestyle to the more valuable Olympic bronze in Atlanta last year — Calleja uttered a Garboesque "we just want to be alone".

Having nurtured Smith and Hickman from boys into 21-year-olds who make a big noise in world swimming, Calleja says that it is now critical to issue a warning to the "circus of interested parties" who are damaging his charges' prospects of Olympic titles in Sydney 2000.

"This is a warning," Calleja said. "With James doing swim clinics, photo shoots, writing articles, giving interviews and making appearances — there's a lot of pressure there — his whole programme is being compromised.

"We've been better planned than other programmes and it has worked. I don't want anything to spoil that. I just don't want to get to 2000 and say 'if only.'"

With Hickman having given up a university course to concentrate on swimming, coinciding with the arrival of Deryk Snelling as Britain's first national performance director, Calleja's situation is complicated further by a national plan of competition and training camps.

In January, Calleja and Hickman flew with other members of the national team to Australia. The experience was valuable for coach and swimmer, but Calleja was caught between the devil and the deep blue sea: Smith had stayed at home to study.

Smith said: "When Dave was in Australia, I was run down and depressed. I was on the point of calling it a day. What keeps you there, though, is the gold medal in Sydney."

The experience perturbed Calleja, who now wants a period of stability at the Olympic pool, at Stockport, where attendants are sent off poolside when Hickman and Smith train because, Calleja says, "no one expects a company director to be working in his office while the hoovering's going on".

The budget is big, but it's not unlimited

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

The trouble with big, cinematic production values in television drama is that the viewer gets complacent, and forgets there's any sort of budgetary limit at all.

"What, aren't we having a music-hall scene?" I pouted last night. The 1890s hospital drama **Bramwell** (ITV) had returned, you see, with fabulous music, great editing and lighting, picturesque East End realism, and loads of fustian extras. One's joy was understandably complete. So when David Calder (Robert Bramwell) announced an outing to the Music Hall, one greedily expected to see 400 Sunday-best pearly kings and queens in the audience, all singing along to a woman in a big hat in a mocked-up Hackney Empire. But strangely, no. Not a whiff of greasepaint. Even more disappointing was the last scene — Jemma Redgrave (Eleanor) waving to her boyfriend on a bustling, steamy, whistly station platform. And what was this? No train? Well, I ask you.

"What do you want, blood?" Carlton could legitimately yell in the circumstances, and they would be right. Bramwell is the jewel in the crown: a good meaty costume drama (Lucy Gannon behind it, as usual) with scope for matters of life and death, love and loyalty, as well as regular speeches of more than five words. Kicking off the third series, last night's episode concerned casualties from the local brewery: a man and a boy had fallen into the mesher, and were horribly burnt. Upright Eleanor abominated the brewery and refused an offered hand-out ("I find it hard to see how medicine and alcohol can ever be compatible"). Her pragmatic Dad, on the other hand, paid court to the brewery's pretty owner — a rich widow with a twinkle.

Jemma Redgrave has terrific presence, and as a character, Eleanor is a real heroine — strong yet vulnerable, controlled yet fiery, clever, principled, brave. Last night she saved a couple of lives, made the questionable decision to sleep with her boyfriend, stayed up all night sweeping in a heatwave, defied Mrs Costigan proudly in full paragraphs, battled through rain and umbrellas to the station, and superhumanly forgave the boyfriend before his departure for France. What a girl. She lives in the world of Jack the Ripper, but she's not scared of anybody.

When it boils down to it, the appeal of most popular telly is the depiction of fearlessness. We can watch other people be bold on our behalf — whether it's Anne Robinson on *Watchdog* or Eleanor in *Bramwell*. Between trips to the back door (Is it locked? Have I already checked it?), we can feel our sinews stiffened by someone else's resolve.

Mrs Bernice Cohen is an unlikely heroine, but heroine she is. Channel 4's **Mrs Cohen's Money** sees this formidably smart little woman marching right up to the financial institutions and jabbing them in the soft underbelly with the point of an umbrella. Last night, she challenged the world of insurance, and explained how insurance companies first scare you into taking "critical illness" and "permanent health" policies and then don't honour them afterwards. It was a one-sided view, but a refreshing one. With the decline of the welfare state, she argued, people will increasingly rely on insurance companies to look after them in times of difficulty. As the biggest financial sector after banks, are they "morally ready" to do that?

The answer, of course, is no. They are just very good at finding chinks in our confidence, and reminding us of mortality. A spokesman for the Association of British Insurers defended the scare tactics of advertising — and he's right, it's true that people generally refuse to anticipate problems. But it's the oldest con trick in the world to sell according to the client's need ("Bad feet?" "Going bald?"), regardless of whether the quack product is the appropriate remedy. The doubly clever thing about insurance is that if you argue against it, you get caught up in a mad circular world which takes even more of your money. "Worried your insurance won't pay out? Don't lose sleep! Insure against it!"

Talking of people who don't anticipate problems, **The Entertainers** (Channel 4) has had to be pretty tactful in its first two episodes. This cheap documentary series, set in the North East, inhabits the grim, tacky world of the social clubs, and in particular the singers employed by Beverley Artistes. Which problem might have been anticipated? Well, that 14-year-old Darren, of the disco-beat group Groove Club, is too young to sing all the gigs. *Wasn't that obvious?* Apparently not. Darren's harmony parts are now taken by an older boy called Neil. It's tough out there in showbiz.

What is fascinating about The Entertainers is to see how small-time success eats up people's lives just as much as big-time. Big-time is relative, in any case. Barry Solomon, we are informed, is a successful singer "on television, in summer seasons and in cabaret all over the world". So, he's damned successful, obviously. But when Barry says he's never at home, and that he's always too busy to attend funerals or weddings, it cruelly illustrates the way a career gets out of hand. If you're Tom Jones, such sacrifices are awful enough: but if you're not Tom Jones, they're tragic.

Meanwhile, the ambitious teenager Tara Lee took her first, untrained steps into the limelight at Cherton Social Club in Newcastle. "Did it sound crap?" she coyly asked the agency man afterwards, doubtless hoping for a spluttering "Of course not!" But he thought about it. "Nowhere near," he said, unconvincingly. "Nowhere near."

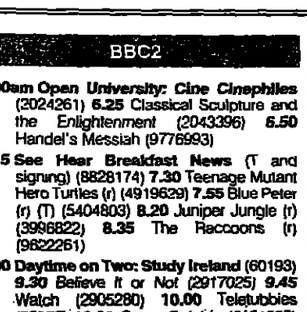
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (28377)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (70448648)
9.05 Election Call Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, answers viewers' questions (9147919)
10.00 Style Challenge (52993)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (68735)
11.00 News (T) and weather (4327483)
11.05 *The Really Useful Show* (T) (9960174)
11.35 Snooker: World Championship Dougie Donnelly presents the crucial action as Alan McManus concludes his first-round match with fellow Scot Billy Snaddon; Nigel Bond begins his campaign against 22-year-old Stephen Lee from Trowbridge (3039358)
12.35pm Good Living (9477551)
1.00 News (T) and weather (19532)
1.30 Regional News (50014735)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (14739241)
2.10 Snooker: World Championship John Parrott concludes his match with Bradley Jones, the lowest ranked player to qualify for the Crucible this year. Plus: Alain Robidoux takes on Brian Morgan (4272483)
3.30 Mouse and Mole (9314342) **3.35** Playdays (r) (6781532) **3.55** Arthur (6792648) **4.20** Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (r) (T) (6895700) **4.35** Pirates (T) (7104551) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5782700) **5.10** The Lowdown (T) (6885241)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (694071)
6.00 News (T) and weather (209)
6.30 Regional News (T) (685464)
6.55 Election Broadcast: Liberal Democrats (653025)
7.00 Martin Clunes' Holiday Uncensored version of the comic actor's two-part tour of America's best-loved locations — San Francisco and the Hawaiian island of Maui (6754)
7.30 EastEnders Pauline and Nigel become increasingly concerned for the welfare of a friend (T) (445)
8.00 Children's Hospital The staff treat a young boy who trapped the top of his finger in a door and a toddler who somehow got part of a toy telephone stuck up her nose (T) (2174)
8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart Gary tries to keep his head as Yvonne takes the plunge and changes her career and Phoebe makes plans for their forthcoming marriage (T) (1209)
9.00 News (T) and weather (643551)
9.50 Election Broadcast: Conservative (T) (595803)
10.00 Sportsnight Desmond Lynam introduces highlights of the FA Cup semi-final replay between Chesterfield and Middlesbrough at Hillsborough (993754)
10.50 The Dirty Dozen (1967) starring Lee Marvin. Second World War drama about a group of death row prisoners who are signed up for a suicide mission. Directed by Robert Aldrich (90318613)
1.10am The Cheap Detective (1978, b/w) starring Peter Falk. A spoof thriller written by Neil Simon and directed by Robert Moore (T153101)
2.40 Weather (6854205)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Cine Cinephiles (2024261) **6.25** Classical Sculpture and the Enlightenment (2043396) **6.50** Handel's Messiah (9776993)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (8828174) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (4919629) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (T) (5404803) **8.20** Juniper Jungle (r) (3996822) **8.35** The Raccoons (r) (9822261)
9.00 Daytime on Two: Study Ireland (60193) **9.30** Believe It or Not (2917025) **9.45** Watch (2905280) **10.00** Teletubbies (52975) **10.30** Come Outside (2121087) **10.45** Science Zone (5086483) **11.05** Space Ark (4315648) **11.15** Go for It! (7718483) **11.30** The Animated Shakespeare: The Tempest (2396) **12.00** See Hear! (r) (57629)
12.30pm Working Lunch (14241) **1.00** Teaching Today (17174) **1.30** Testament: The Bible in Animation (64782) **2.00** Juniper Jungle (r) (42768071)
2.10 The Village (64715777) **2.35** My Village (7524377) **2.40** The Beauty Spot (5306716) **3.00** News (7398648) **3.05** Campaign Roadshow (T) (9528483) **3.55** News; regional news and weather (6409532)
4.00 Snooker: World Championship John Parrott v Bradley Jones and Alain Robidoux v Brian Morgan (3803)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (1/2) Will is shot by robbers on his way to a cash machine (r) (797648)
6.25 Heartbreak High (T) (357551)



Professor Steven Pinker (7.10pm)

7.10 Seven Wonders of the World In the last of the series, the neuroscientist Professor Steven Pinker makes his personal selection (T) (642919)
7.40 Snooker: World Championship John Higgins v Graham Horne. Plus: the conclusion of Nigel Bond v Stephen Lee (669483)
8.30 Food and Drink Nick Naim and Janie Lloyd-Owen help a 100-year-old prepare her birthday celebration (T) (2551)
9.00 Murder One Sharon Rooney is called to the dock and a key witness in the Van Allan case vanishes (T) (2532)
10.30 Election Broadcast: Conservative Party (T) (791648)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (596990)
11.30 Election Broadcast (814483)
11.35 Snooker: World Championship Late-night round-up (712261)
12.25am Weather (3934507)
12.30 Open University: The Learning Zone Producing electricity (73385) **1.30** Hidden Power (77014) **2.00** A study of Brazil (11526) **4.00** Using IT in GNVQ (20781) **4.30** The production of Goldeneye (42830) **5.00** Inside Europe (28762) **5.30** Film Production (95859)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (6325396)
9.25 Chain Letters (3264919)
9.55 Regional News (T) (2386006)
10.00 The Time, the Place (98551)
10.30 This Morning (61746667)
12.20pm Regional News (4008754)
12.30 News (T) and weather (9470648)
12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (79089445) **12.55** Shortland Street (9488667) **1.25** Home and Away (64777342) **1.50** Afternoon Live (66630272) **2.20** Vanessa (50210367) **2.50** Afternoon Live (5653938)
3.20 News (T) (7305938) **3.25** Regional News (T) (7304209)
3.30 Potamus Park (r) (6841919) **3.40** Wizadora (r) (9492174) **3.50** Bimbie's Bucket (T) (9498358) **4.00** Scooby Doo (r) (5973532) **4.15** Hey Arnold! (T) (8868990) **4.40** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (8919990)
5.10 The House Following the transformation of a derelict Victorian house into a home for the 21st century (1237919)
5.40 News (T) and weather (940377)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (784174)
6.25 HTV Weather (693483)
6.30 The West Tonight (670532)
6.55 Election Broadcast: Conservative (T) (648193)
7.00 Emmerdale The Windsors embark on a desperate search for Kelly (T) (1822)
7.30 Family Circles: Kageha's Story the camera follow Kageha Marshall as she is reunited with her family in Africa after 30 years apart (613)
8.00 The Bill A married man discovers that meeting a girl from a lonely hearts advert has unexpected results (T) (4342)



Gordon-Sinclair, McDowell (8.30pm)

8.30 Loved by You Kate and Michael reminisce about how they met. With John Gordon-Sinclair and Trevyn McDowell. Last in series (T) (6377)
9.00 Peak Practice David treats a stubborn pilot. Will a fire at Eric's cottage ignite the flames of passion between her and Andrew? Last in series (T) (2071)
10.00 News (T) and weather (72984)
10.30 Regional News (T) (339342)
10.40 The Super (1991) with Joe Pesci and Vincent Gardenia. The landlord of a slum development is forced to experience life from his tenants' point of view. Directed by Rod Daniel (59039716)
12.20am Dating the Enemy (4016205)
1.25 Stand and Deliver (8752728)
2.25 The Chart Show (r) (5751897)
3.25 Coach (r) (46000236)
3.50 Football Extra (r) (5362830)
4.30 The Time, the Place (r) (46656)
5.00 Heirloom (r) (22588)
5.30 News (82385)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9488667)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1237919)
6.25 Central News (795700)
6.50-6.55 Lifeline (649822)
7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (613)
10.40 Film: The Super (79815071)
12.25am Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (3041897)
12.50 Film: Night on the Town (824149)
2.40 In Focus (6432439)
3.25 Football Extra (2054656)
4.10 Central Jobfinder '97 (1506946)
5.20 Asian Eye (2010859)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (4090735)
12.55 Home and Away (2775990)
1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (70447990)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1237919)
6.00-6.55 Westcountry Live (458629)
7.30-8.00 Animal Passions (613)
10.40 Film: The Super (59039716)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1237919)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (784174)
6.25-6.55 Michael Barry's Undiscovered Cooks (792193)
7.30-8.00 The Parish (613)
10.40 Film: The Super (59039716)
1.25am Stand and Deliver (8752728)
2.25 The Chart Show (5751897)
3.25 Coach (46000236)
3.50 Football Extra (5362830)
5.00 Freescreen (22588)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (4906342)
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9488667)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1237919)
6.23 Anglia Weather (598984)
6.25-6.55 Anglia News (792193)
7.30-8.00 Homemaker (613)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (427551)
10.45 Generation X (864803)
11.35 Midweek Kick-Off! (981464)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (11087) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (32483) **9.00 Bewitched** (55261) **9.30 Film: The Teckman Mystery** (45784025) **11.10 Australia Wild** (4309445) **11.35 Extreme** (3976025) **12.30pm Ricki Lake** (65957) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (43445046) **1.15 Pingu** (10744731) **1.30 Film: Lady Godiva Rides Again** (76580822) **3.15 All About Bears** (8730715) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (735) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (342) **4.30 Taste of the Times** (754) **5.00 5 Pump** (6700) **5.30 Countdown** (826) **6.00 Newyddion** (308803) **6.05 Heno** (625464) **6.40 Noson Ryan** (832445) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (898261) **7.25 Noson Ryan** (6047280) **8.30 Darllediad Etholiadol: Ceidwadyr** (436990) **8.35 Newyddion** (647919) **9.05 Noson Ryan** (540990) **10.05 Etholiad 97** (398087) **10.15 Brookside** (334087) **10.50 Dark Skies** (508735) **11.50 Party Election Broadcast** (896087) **11.55 The Long Johns Election Special** (644551) **12.10am Election Midnight Special** (9168217) **1.40-2.40 Hill Street Blues** (4467878)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (11087)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (32483)
9.00 Bewitched (r) (T) (55261)
9.30 The Teckman Mystery (1954, b/w) FILM starring John Justin and Margaret Leighton. A thriller about a man writing the biography of a dead pilot. Directed by Wendy Toye (45784025)
11.10 Australia Wild Animal life in Oz (4309445) **11.35** Extreme (r) (T) (3976025) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (98193) **1.30** Islanders. A 1939 GPO documentary (22358984)
1.50 Watch Your Stern (1960, b/w) FILM A nautical comedy with Kenneth Connor, Noel Purcell and Leslie Phillips. Directed by Gerald Thomas (T) (42597648)
3.30 Collectors' Lot. Gerry Anderson on Lady Penelope and Parker from *Thunderbirds* (T) (735) **4.00** Fifteen-To-One (T) (342) **4.30** Countdown (T) (754) **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (6700) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (826)
6.00 Friends: The One with the Dozen Lasagnas Phoebe has some bad news for Rachel about her Italian boyfriend (r) (T) (782716)
6.25 Ant and Dec Unzipped with guests Eddie Izard, Jo Brand, Simon Gregson and Jayne Middlemass (790735)
6.55 Fresh Pop (646735)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (153731)
7.55 Thatcher's Children (T) (409071)
8.00 The Great Owl of the Mountains The life cycle of the American Great Gray Owl (T) (2984)
8.30 Brookside Susannah is overcome with grief, while, Mick may have the answer to his financial problems (T) (4919)



Jack Kevorkian (9.00pm)

9.00 Witness: Appointment with Doctor Death A look at the work of the American Dr Jack Kevorkian. Last in series (T) (2223)
10.00 Election Broadcast: Conservative (T) (557803)
10.05 Blood Oath (1990) with Bryan Brown. A FILM fact-based drama about an Australian army lawyer trying to bring Japanese war criminals to justice. Directed by Stephen Wallace (T) (13482613)
12.10am Midnight Special Political discussion series (9168217)
1.40 Bulldog Jack (1934, b/w) with Jack FILM Hulbert, Ralph Richardson and Fay Wray. A vintage comedy thriller from the Bulldog Drummond series. Directed by Walter Forde (7947168)
3.00 The Oracle (1952, b/w). A comedy with FILM Michael Medwin as a reporter who discovers an oracle that predicts the future at the bottom of a well. Directed by Pennington Richards (83656)
4.30 Riders of the Dawn Spanish drama serial (r) (3368052)
5.30-6.00 Backdate (r) (T) (5890781)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News Early (7557716)
7.30 Havakazoo (2677174)
8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (2295803)
8.30 WideWorld: Heaven's Delight. A study of the link between art and religion in 14th-century Italy. Focusing on the Palazzo Publico, seat of the government of Siena during the 1500's (2294174)
9.00 Espresso (5294025)
10.00 Exclusive (r) (6502174)
10.30 Hot Property (r) (T) (2214938)
11.00 Leeza Chat show (9434822)
11.50 Double Espresso (45008667)
12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (2298990)
12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (9189006)
1.00 5 News Update (92039342)
1.05 Sunset Beach (6204716)
2.00 5's Company (7358311)
3.30 Baby of the Bride (1991) with Rue FILM McClanahan and Ted Shackelford. A comedy about a woman and her young husband discovering she is pregnant at the same time as their daughter. Directed by Bill Bixby (4182445)
5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (14975071)
5.25 Election Broadcast: Liberal Party (14974342)
5.30 100 Per Cent Game show (1151209)
6.00 Whittle Quiz (1141822)



Cordelia Bugeja (6.30pm)

6.30 Family Affairs Melanie is bored with living at home and suggests sharing a flat with Duncan. With Cordelia Bugeja (T) (1132174)
7.00 Exclusive Showbiz news (1059358)
7.30 Waterland A study of the raingoose, which inhabits the lochs of the Scottish Highlands and Islands (7266984)
7.55 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative Party (T) (5617919)
8.00 Fame and Fortune Following designer John Rocha as he prepares to show his 1997 collection (1068006)
8.30 5 News (1974613)
9.00 Lone Wolf McQuade (1983) with Chuck FILM Norris, David Carradine and Barbara Carrera. Action adventure about a maverick Texas Ranger with karate skills. Directed by Steve Carver (32779025)
10.50 Exclusive Extra (5886342)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show The guest is the former EastEnder turned singer Michelle Gayle (9341777)
11.40 The Comedy Store Jo Brand, Julian Clary and Mark Thomas recall their early days as stand-up comedians (2349280)
12.10am Live and Dangerous Including IndyCar and a motorsport round-up (16473651)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6291781)
5.30-6.00 100 Per Cent (r) (5179762)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (8589193) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (81358) **10.00** Another World (78754) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (6389067) **12.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (43938) **1.00pm** Geraldo (29368) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (28358) **3.00** Jenny Jones (45823) **4.00** Oprah with the Stars (31629) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (3209) **6.00** Real TV (6071) **6.30** Married — with Children (3561) **7.00** The Simpsons (4938) **7.30** M*A*S*H (9735) **8.00** Speed! (8218) **8.30** Real TV UK (2193) **9.00** Picket Fences (84445) **10.00** Unsolved Mysteries (67532) **11.00** Selina Scott (32358) **11.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (55193) **12.30am** L.A.P.D. (50043) **1.00** Hit Mix (6038410)

SKY 2

7.00pm Superboy (4389377) **7.30** Superboy (3032174) **8.00** Xena: Warrior Princess (1404890) **9.00** Pacific Blue (1424754) **10.00** Malibu Shores (1321613) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (6919735) **12.00** Hit Mix Long Play (8904586)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come (1961) (25984) **8.00 Flight of the Doves** (1971) (40938) **10.00 The Little Rascals** (1994) (35919) **12.00 Cold Turkey** (1971) (430629) **1.45pm Monte Carlo or Bust** (1969) (906483) **3.45 Flight of the Doves** (1971) (675025) **5.30 The Little Rascals** (1994) (62826) **7.00 The Brady Bunch Movie** (1995) (70667) **9.00 Beverly Hills Cop** (1984) (72464) **11.00 Beyond Rangoon** (1995) (148193) **12.40am James Clavell's Tai-Pan** (1986) (72257101) **2.45 Robin Cook's Formula for Death** (1995) (962156) **4.15 The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come** (1961) (8326191)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Mudlark (1950) (29754) **8.00 Reasons of Love** (1935) (31260) **10.00 Harry Black and the Tiger** (1958) (26261) **12.00 Lily in Winter** (1994) (21803) **2.00pm Botany Bay** (1952) (69754) **4.00 Harry Black and the Tiger** (1958) (9483) **6.00 A Mother's Prayer** (1995) (99377) **7.30 Special Feature: Tom Hanks** (2445) **8.00 The Client** (1994) (71735) **10.00 Village of the Damned** (1995) (243087) **11.40 Wishman** (1985) (679887) **1.10am Lady Killer** (1995) (4518120) **2.40 Eureka** (1981) (53447894) **4.50 Tales of Washington Irving** (1982) (3319168)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm The Lady Eve (1941) (8218358) **8.00 The Secret of My Success** (1987) (6213803) **10.00 The Krays** (1989) (64552209) **12.05am Les Yeux Sans Visage** (1959) (38043675) **1.35 The L-Shaped Room** (1963) (88518856) **3.40-5.10 Radio Days** (1987) (52639236)

TNT

9.00pm Scaramouche (1952) (69473174) **11.00 Cannery Row** (1982) (35937532) **1.05am Please Don't Eat the Daisies** (1960). (25764856) **2.00-5.00 Scaramouche** (1952) (36380255)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (10209) **7.30** Tartan Extra (99716) **8.00** High Five (28700) **8.30** Racing News (27071) **9.00** Sports Centre (14551) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (54813) **10.00** Spanish Football (53261) **11.30** Tartan Extra (99280) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (98777) **12.30pm** Monday Night Football (29025) **2.30** Superbikes (18984) **4.00** Surfing Championships (79803) **4.59** Sports Centre (1520087) **5.00** Blast Off (4193) **6.00** Sports Centre (4261) **6.30** Hall of Fame (69483) **7.00** Ford Football Special: Live FA Cup Semi-Final Replay — Chesterfield v Middlesbrough (697280) **10.00** Sports Centre (48236) **10.30** Wrestling in Your House (19990) **12.30am** FA Cup Semi-Final Replay — Chesterfield v Middlesbrough **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre (14675)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Sports Unlimited (57253442) **1.00pm** Basketball (25070025) **3.00** NHL Hockey (75113071) **5.00** Tartan Extra (21038396) **5.30** Skiff-Sailing (56165193) **6.30** World Pool Masters (42092071) **7.00** Sports Centre (21018532) **7.30** NBA Basketball: Washington v Orlando (55152629) **9.30-11.30** Golf: Andersen Consulting Championship (66871551)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Cycling (40008) **8.30** Football (10939) **9.30** Live Tennis (8841667) **5.00pm** Motorcycling (3714) **5.30** Tractor Pulling (71716) **6.30** Freande (5639) **7.00** Live Boxing (12813) **9.00** Tennis (93483) **9.30** Football (39648) **11.00-12.30am** Basketball (10975)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack **7.35** Neighbours **8.00** Crossroads **8.25** EastEnders **9.00** The Bill **9.30** Don't Wait Up **10.00** Robin's Nest **10.30** The Sullivans (4180434) **11.00** Casualty (88920445) **12.05pm** Crossroads (46778808) **12.30** Neighbours (2608939) **1.00** EastEnders (8119919) **1.35** The Les Dawson Show (3289209) **2.20** The Mistress (80181593) **2.55** 'Allo 'Allo! (5184808) **3.30** The Bill (2844803) **4.00** Boon (5615629) **5.00** Generation Game (30716862) **6.05** EastEnders (4457342) **6.40** Sykes (1435174) **7.20** Russ Abbot (4605803) **7.50** Rising Damp (6734377) **8.20** In Sickness and in Health (8768735) **9.00** The Bill (5531613) **9.30** Casualty (9939990) **10.30** Then Churchill Said to Me (6088071) **11.05** Got Some Int' (3379513) **11.40 FILM: Don't Just Lie There, Say Something** (5256803) **1.10am** Private Schultz (3881878) **2.05** Shopping at Night

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor **6.30** Caliwazzin (2110342) **7.00** Coronation Street (4723483) **7.30** Families (4703990) **8.00** Surprise, Surprise (4544803) **9.00** The Professionals (5353483) **10.00** The Krypton Factor (2207822) **10.30** Doctor on the Go (5397071) **11.00** When These Walls (4728938) **12.00** Coronation Street (5484551) **12.30pm** Families (6234087) **1.00** Crown Court (4727754) **1.30** The Good Life Guide (6233358) **2.00** This Year, Next Year (2208551) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3893820) **4.00** Surprise, Surprise (3986829) **5.00** The Professionals (5548377) **6.00** Families (6906547) **6.30** Coronation Street (5533048) **7.00** Surprise, Surprise (2753613) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (2834261) **9.00** Coronation Street (3805613) **9.30** The Comedians (6247551) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (7497716) **6.25** Quack Attack (7409551) **6.50** Bonkers (1911280) **7.15** The Little Mermaid (7957735) **7.40** Aladdin (4361551) **8.05** Quack Pack (7177156) **8.30** Goof Troop (49251) **9.00** The Care Bears (33873581) **9.25** Welcome to Pooh Corner (3399193) **9.50** Muppet Babies (8255803) **10.15** Groundling Marsh (6042700) **10.40** Sing Me a Story with Belle (1857754) **11.05** Poddington Peas (1721209) **11.10** Big Garage (9657280) **11.25** Play Along (2835280) **11.55** Fraggle Rock (5947483) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa (9201532) **12.30** Boy Meets World (5683754) **12.55** Timon and Pumbaa (7745764B) **1.05** Mouse Tracks (16246483) **1.30** Aladdin (3311648) **2.10** Goof Troop (4646407!) **2.35** Bonkers (5396803) **3.00** Quack Attack (1005532) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (1556590) **3.35** The Little Mermaid (6698862) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (4371803) **4.10** Goof Troop (8104377) **4.35** Quack Pack (9117087) **5.00** Aladdin (4570629) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (5726613) **5.35** Mighty Ducks (668261) **6.00** New Doug (1975) **6.30** Boy Meets World (1377) **7.00** Brotherly Love (5464) **7.30 FILM: The Great Elephant Escape** (57434) **9.00** Dave's World (15629) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (90483)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (1444087) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (7890483) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (69000s7) **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo (8912822) **8.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (8348087) **8.30** Crocadoo (8347358) **9.00** Rimba's Island (4782551) **9.20** The Magic Box (5196893) **9.45** Zoobilee Zoo (9651613) **10.05** Rimba's Island (6084822) **10.25** The Magic Box (7683629) **10.55** Adventures of Dodo (84546919) **11.00** Princess Sparkle and the Jewel Riders (8990174) **11.30** Pinocchio (8991803) **12.00** Inspector Gadget (8341174) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (35497803) **12.50** Power Rangers Zeo (35417667) **1.10** Big Bad Beetleborgs (20588261) **1.30** Eek! Stravaganza (7213629) **2.00** Life with Louie (4376261) **2.30** Crocadoo (3051209) **3.00** Gadget Boy (4397396) **3.30** Eek! Stravaganza (3056754) **4.00** Life with Louie (3035361) **4.30** Power Rangers Zeo (3031445) **5.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (4296613) **5.30** Spiderman (3055025) **6.00** Goosebumps (3029938) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (3096990)

TCC

6.00am Road to Avonlea (40551) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (97174) **8.00** Batman (53464) **8.30** Art Attack (52735) **9.00** Flash Gordon (43087) **9.30** Bobby's World (89377) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (95071) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (69071) **11.00** Danger Mouse (31667) **11.30** Gravedale High (32396) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (56551) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy (83193) **1.00** By Way of the Stars (14648) **1.30** Black Beauty (82464) **2.00** The Girl from Tomorrow (7822) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (9342) **3.00** Art Attack (3629) **3.30** Flash Gordon (4087) **4.00** Batman (56420) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula (41754) **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life (70193) **7.00** Hey Arnold! (70321) **7.30** Rugrats (97358) **8.00** Doug (26342) **8.30** Arthur (25613) **9.00** CBBC (27174) **10.00** Wimzie's House (61445) **10.30** Bebar (18377) **11.00** Magic School Bus (86193) **11.30** Mr Men/King Rollo/Barney/Topsy and Tim/Skyjerk (87822) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (99759) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (56071) **1.00** CBBC (57754) **2.00** The Wubbulous World of Dr Seuss (9648) **2.30** Kissyfur (1174) **3.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (1483) **3.30** Bruno the Kid (3919) **4.00** Jumanji (5754) **4.30** Rugrats (1938) **5.00** Sister Sister (9700) **5.30** Moesha (5990) **6.00-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (6483)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (4107764) **1.00pm** Madison (4654984) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (5753808) **2.00** Hangtime (3199342) **2.30** California Dreams (2867754) **3.00** Byker Grove (3281377) **3.30** 9-2-5 (2765071) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (2858006) **4.30** Hangtime (2847990) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (3286822) **5.30** California Dreams (2765342) **6.00** Byker Grove (2988483) **6.30** Madison (2856735) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (9139280)

BRAVO

8.00pm The New Twilight Zone (90427000) **9.00** Hammer House of Horror (9135464) **10.00** Tour of Duty (9138551) **11.00 FILM: The House of Seven Corpses** (2823862) **1.00am** Stanley and Hutch (4852856) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9847965) **3.00 FILM: A Nymphoid Barbarian in Dinosaur Hell** (4339439) **5.00** The New Twilight Zone (4469781)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (3464) **7.30** Roseanne (2667) **8.00** Roseanne (6984) **8.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (8919) **9.00** Cheers (73629) **9.30** Cybill (49735) **10.00** Fraser (48218) **10.30** It's Garry Shandling's Show (19006) **11.00** Modern Problems in Science (79174) **11.30** Norbert (72483) **12.30am** Carnal Knowledge (79014) **1.30** Cybill (29014) **2.00** Entertainment UK (26410) **2.30** Modern Problems in Science (12217) **3.00** Fraser (81011) **3.30-4.00** It's Garry Shandling's Show (36897)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Tenchi Muyo (7247396) **8.30** The Twilight Zone (7228803) **9.00 FILM: America 3000** (4721532) **11.00** The Invaders (6458445) **12.00** The Incredible Hulk (32497831) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (1330897) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3037743) **2.00** Friday the 13th (6508946) **3.00** Dark Shadows (1310033) **3.30-4.00** Dark Shadows (5131033)

HOME AND LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (1639764) **9.30** Garden Calendar (2503385) **10.00** The Great Gardening Plot (4872358) **10.30** Doing it Up (6980416) **11.00** The Painted House (5622919) **11.30** This Old House (5623648) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (2285808) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (8903321) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (4730358) **1.30** Home Again (9353962) **2.00** Hometime (3275715) **2.30** Furniture to Go (2767700) **3.00** Two's Country Cooking (3287557) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (2842445)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures II (2854280) **4.30** Roadshow (2850464) **5.00** Terra X (3299396) **5.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (2841716) **6.00** Wild Things Untamed Africa (2307782) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (3279532) **7.30** Disaster (2851193) **8.00** Poison: Discover Magazine (9128174) **9.00** Extreme Machines. (91498B8) **10.00** Discovery Signature: Flood (5626735) **12.00** Classic Wheels (9343156) **1.00am** Disaster (1555439) **1.30-2.00** Beyond 2000 (5677584)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Ancient Mysteries (1237209) **5.00** Voices from the Western Front (7237919) **6.00** Heroes (7195644) **7.00-8.00** Biography. Jayne Mansfield (4747025)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour
5.05pm Blockbusters (5537241) **5.50** Family Fortunes (8782280) **6.30** Catchphr



CYCLING 50
Trial and error rule Obree out of championships

SPORT

RACING 51
Weighty matters force Swinburn to take a break



TUESDAY APRIL 22 1997

England reject struggling James



Hoddle: unimpressed with Anfield display

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH football's latest high-profile version of *Crime and Punishment* unfolded at Lancaster Gate yesterday when Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, cranked up another turn on the rack on which the tortured Liverpool goalkeeper, David James, is stretched out by omitting him from the squad for the World Cup qualifying match against Georgia on April 30.

James, who played so brilliantly in the opening eight months of the season and was instrumental in Liverpool's FA Carling Premiership challenge to the hegemony of Manchester United, has endured a wretched few weeks of error-strewn matches that have contributed to his team's gradual slide out of contention.

On Saturday morning, at Anfield, he handed United the game — and probably the title — by misjudging a hopeful cross that Andy Cole nodded in for the crucial third goal in a 3-1 win. Yet still there were those, his manager, Roy Evans, included, who thought Hoddle should keep faith with the man he made his first-choice goalkeeper for last month's friendly against Mexico, if only to try to salvage some of his leaking confidence.

Instead, Hoddle, who has proved himself a compassionate manager in the past with his care for the errant Paul Gascoigne and his faith this time in Graeme Le Saux, even though the Blackburn Rovers defender appears to have fallen out with his club, showed the ruthless side of his character by leaving out James.

Part of the reason is that David Seaman has returned from the injury that kept him out of both the World Cup qualifying match against Italy in February and the game against Mexico a month later. However, James has slipped from first-choice goalkeeper less than a month ago to at least fifth now, behind Seaman, Tim Flowers, Ian Walker and Nigel Martyn. It is a dizzying descent.

Hoddle said that he had been to see James play on Saturday because he had been concerned about his form. He had hoped to see evidence that James was recovering from his indifferent spell, but he witnessed a goalkeeper uncertain in himself and exposed by a defence that compounded his simple errors.

"It has been a difficult decision for me to make," Hoddle said at a hotel near the Football Association headquarters yesterday afternoon.

SQUAD

D Seaman (Arsenal), I Walker (Tottenham Hotspur), T Flowers (Blackburn Rovers), N Martyn (Leeds United), A Adams (Arsenal), M Keown (Arsenal), G Pallister (Manchester United), S Pearce (Nottingham Forest), G Southgate (Aston Villa), G Neville (Man United), S Campbell (Tottenham), G Le Saux (Blackburn), P Neville (Man United), D Beckham (Man United), P Ince (Internazionale), D Batty (Newcastle United), R Lee (Newcastle) S McManaman (Liverpool), J Redknapp (Liverpool), N Butt (Man United), A Shearer (Newcastle), L Ferdinand (Newcastle), E Sheringham (Tottenham), R Fowler (Liverpool), I Wright (Arsenal).

"One of the reasons I went up there on Saturday was to have a look at his situation. He did not have a particularly good game and he made some mistakes. It was a difficult one, but I have left him out.

"The fact is that the form of the other goalkeepers in the squad is ahead of David James's and it would have been difficult to justify keeping him in. What people will try to jump to is that, suddenly, because David James played in the friendly, they assume he will be the No 2 goalkeeper to David Seaman, but that is not what the friendly was about. It was an opportunity to experiment and, since that game, his form has dipped.

"I have spoken to him and, obviously, he is disappointed, but this is not a door that has been shut. He has the opportunity to get back in in the future. Now he has to get his club form back to where it was. That will be his first port of call. David Seaman, if he maintains his form and his fitness, will be the No 1. I have got to work out who is going to be there as No 2."

James, at least, is a different kind of casualty to the ones Hoddle has grown accustomed to in his short time in charge of England. There is time, of course, for the kind of mass withdrawals because of injury that blighted the Mexico game, but the England coach has been able to recall three lynchpins to his squad.

Seaman, Tony Adams and Alan Shearer, who will reassume the captaincy, have all recovered from injury and five others who were forced to pull out of the Mexico game — Walker, Gary Pallister, David Beckham, Sol Campbell and Gary Neville — are also back in the squad. There was a special logic in picking Le Saux, too, even though he was left out by Blackburn at Arsenal on Saturday. "At least I knew he wouldn't get injured," Hoddle said.

Hoddle has retained Robert Lee, the one outstanding success of last month's friendly, but hinted that he was unlikely to risk him in the unaccustomed position of wing back in which he played against Mexico, rather than his more orthodox right-midfield slot. He said that he was likely to change his formation for the match against Georgia, one that England have to win to retain a realistic chance of challenging Italy for the leadership of group two.

Gascoigne, Matthew Le Tissier and Darren Anderton are notable absentees, but Hoddle countered the injured trio's loss with praise for the Manchester United players who coped so efficiently with Liverpool on Saturday and are maturing with every European Cup game they play. Beckham, Nicky Butt and Gary and Phil Neville were all mentioned in dispatches, as was Paul Scholes, even though he is not in the squad. "They have got so much talent," Hoddle said, "and thankfully it is all English."

Record break seals rehabilitation

O'Sullivan fires maximum with minimum of fuss

BY PHIL YATES

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, a man in disgrace at The Crucible Theatre 12 months ago, savoured a standing ovation there yesterday after constructing the swiftest 147 maximum break in the history of snooker during a 10-6 first-round victory over Mick Price at the Embassy world championship.

In taking only 5min 20sec to pot 15 reds, 15 blacks and the six colours, O'Sullivan erased the previous record, of 7min 09sec, established by James Wattana, of Thailand, against Tony Drago at the 1992 British Open.

Deftly manoeuvering the cue ball around the table with an assurance generated by unshakeable self-confidence, O'Sullivan's total clearance was positionally perfect. It was the fourth maximum compiled in the 70-year history of the sport's premier event — Cliff Thorburn scored the first in 1983, Jimmy White followed suit in 1992 and Stephen Hendry joined the club two years ago — and only the twentieth in all professional competition.

Assuming that no one else posts a 147 over the next 14 days, O'Sullivan will collect a £147,000 sponsor's bonus and the £18,000 award for the highest break. That amounts to £515.62 for every second he spent at the table.

"My head was shaking and I couldn't keep still on the colours, but I knew if I hesitated it would interrupt my rhythm and I might make a mistake," O'Sullivan said. "It was a tremendous buzz out there; a feeling that's impossible to put into words."

Normally when compiling a 147 there are a handful of pivotal shots that bind the break together. On this occasion, O'Sullivan's ball control was so precise that he never faced a difficult pot.

After sinking the opening red from distance, O'Sullivan quickly transformed what had originally appeared little more than a half-chance. If a single shot could be pinpointed as the highlight, it was the fifteenth black. O'Sullivan, with pressure mounting, stunned it unhesitatingly into a top pocket and, with the help of two cushions, placed the white neatly in line for the yellow.

While it was the first time that O'Sullivan had registered a 147 in a professional tournament, he is already in the record books as the youngest player to score one. That came in the early stages of the 1991 English amateur championship, only three months after he had celebrated his fifteenth birthday.

O'Sullivan's latest effort came a year after he had been fortunate to avoid being expelled from the event for a physical assault on an official, which resulted in the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, the game's governing body, fining him £20,000.

ERIC WHITEHEAD



Right on cue: O'Sullivan accepts the noisy acclaim of the audience at the Crucible after his record-breaking high-speed 147 yesterday

O'Sullivan reached his psychological nadir last summer when he spent a week living in an hotel after his mother threw him out of the family home in Chigwell. "I was a fat slob and I knew then I had to sort myself out. I went on the razzle for a while then crept back with my tail between my legs," he said. "I'm 21, I'm a man now and I don't want to waste my gift." His behaviour this season, apart from a display of petulance when he lost 5-1 to Chris Small at the European Open last month, has been exemplary.

He will now play Darren Morgan in the last 16 and, should the seedings go to plan, he will supply the quarter-final opposition for Hendry, the defending champion.

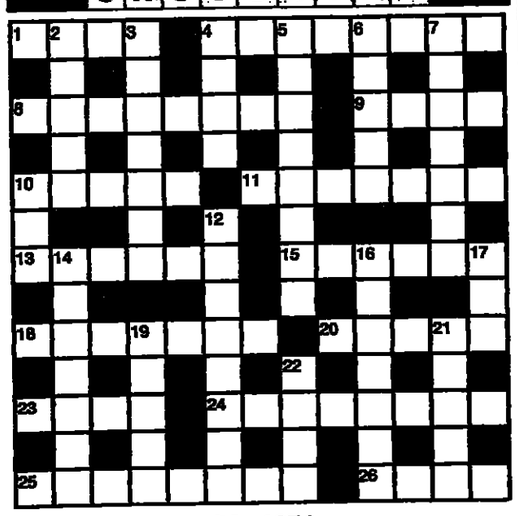
Earlier, Steve Davis launched his attempt to capture a seventh world title by building a 6-2 lead over David McLellan. Showing none of O'Sullivan's fluency, he instead exploited his Scottish rival's inexperience to seize command.

147s IN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Year	Player	Opponent	Result
1983	Cliff Thorburn	Terry Griffiths	Thorburn won 13-12
1992	Jimmy White	Tony Drago	White won 10-4
1995	Stephen Hendry	Jimmy White	Hendry won 16-12
1997	Ronnie O'Sullivan	Mick Price	O'Sullivan won 10-6

Results, page 53

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1074

ACROSS
1 Cut short; a plant (4)
4 Dr —, orphanage founder (8)
8 Carapaced pet (8)
9 Almost shut (4)
10 Condiment stand (5)
11 Team commanded by Lt. (7)
13 Dr —, helped Holmes (6)
15 One not claiming booked seat (2-4)
18 Consignment tickets (7)
20 Human trunk (5)
23 Conservative (4)
24 Neg.-charged particle (8)
25 Riding gala (8)
26 Garden nook seating slope (4)

DOWN
2 Aroma; repute (5)
3 Newborn pets; had by the nervous (7)
4 Edible lure (4)
5 Rhine wine, its grape (8)
6 Separated (5)
7 Spinning-top/cord game (7)
10 Animal; browbeat (3)
12 One detested, cursed (8)
14 Expression of regret (7)
16 Two-wheeler (7)
17 Dr —, Time Lord (3)
19 Eskimo canoe (5)
21 Dr —, childcare author (5)
22 Goat, sheep cheese (Gk.) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1073
ACROSS: 1 Easy 3 Espousal 8 Roof 9 Austrian 11 Syncopated 14 Annual 15 Deceit 17 Asseverate 20 Orthodox 21 Talc 22 Temerity 23 Levy
DOWN: 1 Etruscan 2 Swooning 4 Seurat 5 On the level 6 Stir 7 Lynx 10 Woman's Hour 12 Separate 13 Stretchy 16 Deport 18 Soft 19 Atom

PRICES NOW INCLUDE FREE UK DELIVERY TO TIMES READERS (REST OF WORLD ADD £1 PER ITEM). STERLING/US DOLLAR CHEQUES ONLY. (£1=US$ 1.65). TIMES CROSSWORDS' - Books 10,11,12,13 £3.99 each. The Times Concise - Book 2 (240 puzzles) £5.99, Crossword Solver's Dictionary £11.95 (UK only). Crossword Manual £9.99 Collins Roget's International Thesaurus £22.99 (UK only) The 2nd Omnibus Book of The Times Crosswords, The Third Book of The Times Jumbo Crosswords (Cryptic) £4.99 each. The Times Night Sky 1997 £3.50. NEW! The Times Two Crosswords Book 6 £2.99.
TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS by David Akenhead — Crosswords on Computer 3.5 diskette (cires 60 crosswords each, solo/team facility and optional HELP levels). Includes: Times Crosswords (10) + Omnibus (1 & 2 (2 + 2). The Times Concise (4) The Times Two (3) —The Times Jubilee Edition 1932-67 (1). (Brackets denote number of diskettes)

Prices per title/diskette:	1	2	Additional disks
IBM MS-DOS and Acorn RISC Os	£10.25	£14.99	£5 each
NEW Windows version for IBM PC:	£15.00	£22.00	£8 each

Please specify (inc VAT)
Send cheques with order payable to Alcom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London, SE13 5QW. Tel 0181-852 4575 24hrs). No credit cards. Delivery to 8 days

Williams ready for supporting role

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

ON SATURDAY, Darren Williams, 19, was acclaimed a hero. He scored the goal for Sunderland in their vital 1-0 away win against Middlesbrough, which greatly enhanced their chances of avoiding relegation. Tonight, he is likely to be dropped to the substitutes' bench when Sunderland take on Southampton at Roker Park. Such is the fickleness of life in the FA Carling Premiership.

Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, gave little away about his team selection yesterday. With Southampton in a similarly precarious position near the foot of the Premiership, he preferred to keep his own counsel. He was loathe, however, to fall into the trap of saying this one game could decide Sunderland's fate.

"It's another big game against Southampton, all of them are at the moment, but a win won't necessarily make us safe," he said. "Nothing will be decided on the one match and we've just got to keep plugging away. I won't say we're safe until it's mathematically certain."

Matthew Le Tissier missed Southampton's edgy 2-2 draw with Coventry City on Saturday and is unlikely to reappear at Roker Park. "There is a chance he could come back as his hamstring injury is not as bad as was first feared," Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, said, "but we must be careful not to rush him too soon."

Souness is likely to keep Le Tissier in reserve for their closing games of the season, against Blackburn Rovers and Aston Villa, with Michael Evans, who has scored four goals in as many games, and Egil Ostenstad resuming their partnership in attack.

Sheffield Wednesday and Aston Villa continue their quest for a Uefa Cup place, with Wednesday travelling to Blackburn Rovers and Villa going to Leeds United. Gareth Southgate, the Villa central defender, will have a late fitness test after retiring early from the 1-1 draw against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday as a result of a clash of heads with Dean Austin, the Tottenham defender.

Local hero, page 53

Robson deliberates as Everton wait

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BOBBY ROBSON, the Barcelona manager, admitted for the first time last night that he was considering his future with the Spanish club after its president, Josep Lluis Núñez, said he was to bring in two new coaches at the Nou Camp stadium next season.

Núñez said over the weekend that there was no reason why the club's new acquisitions should lead to Robson's departure halfway through his two-year contract and denied that the former England manager had held any meetings with representatives of Everton, who are thought to want him as a replacement for Joe Royle.

Speaking from his home in Sitges, just south of the city, though, Robson said that news of the two new appointments, one of which is likely to be the Ajax coach, Louis van Gaal, had taken him by surprise as he tried to concentrate on the second leg of Barcelona's Cup Winners' Cup semi-final with Fiorentina in Italy on Thursday.

"I am still in the middle of trying to win the championship," Robson said. "We are in the final of the Spanish Cup and I am focusing on the game with Fiorentina and then, out of the blue this weekend, the president has said they are going to bring in not one but two new coaches.

"One of them, apparently, is to look at the youth policy and that is something that needs addressing. The other is to co-ordinate overseas signings ... in the light of the Bosman judgment. One more fellow is in charge of the team, which is what I do at the moment.

"We are all subject to change and nothing is set in stone in football but obviously I have got to clarify my position here in Barcelona before I start thinking seriously about other clubs. I do not want to make any comment about Everton."

However, Clifford Finch, an Everton director confirmed that Robson is on their list for the managerial vacancy. "The chairman [Peter Johnson] met with Bobby on Sunday and they had talks. But it would be wrong to say what they talked about," he said.

Rob Hughes, page 53

